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Gardeners' (erotic) World

MONDAY REVIEW FRONT



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Doctors seek new rules to let people die

DOCTORS FACING HAVING decisions on whether to withdraw treatment from severely brain damaged patients want new guidelines to protect them from the threat of legal action.

A British Medical Association report published yesterday suggested that the capacity to form human relationships could be one criterion for deciding whether to offer life sustaining treatment to patients who would otherwise die...

The BMA says that advances in medical technology are keeping patients with terrible injuries alive. Doctors are increasingly taking the quality of patients' lives into account as well as assessing the medical benefits of treatment, exposing them to the risk of legal action and charges of playing God.

A report by the association's ethics committee suggests that an individual's ability to interact and relate to other people is "one key indicator of a person's quality of life".

The BMA says that the law is confused and that NHS trusts are making different decisions in similar situations, leaving doctors and relatives uncertain where they stand.

Last month, the Royal Bournemouth Hospital paid £100,000 in an out-of-court settlement to Catherine Roberts, a young student who had been in a prolonged coma following an accident, after doctors decided not to replace her nasal feeding tube when it fell out.

The doctors had been about to switch off her ventilator when she unexpectedly started to emerge from her coma. She has since recovered enough to study for an Open University degree although she is severely handicapped.

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

In a second case, a 23-year-old patient identified as 'R' who had been brain damaged at birth was the subject of a court case in which his consultant argued that his condition was deteriorating and he should be allowed to die. R then weighed five stone and suffered from dehydration.

The consultant said that it would be in his best interests to "allow nature to take its course next time he has a life threatening crisis" by withdrawing active treatment, such as antibiotics.

"It seems to follow that life is a value to be preserved only insofar as it contains some potentiality for human relationships."

The court agreed but authorised a feeding tube to be inserted into his stomach, indicating that it distinguished artificial feeding from other forms of treatment.

The BMA report, *Withdrawing and withholding treatment*, issued on the eve of its annual conference in Cardiff, seeks to bring consistency to an area regarded by many doctors as an ethical minefield. It says most accept that there is "no absolute duty to prolong life at all costs" but uncertainty remains about the point at which "treatment becomes excessively burdensome".

It says terms such as quality of life are controversial because they imply some lives are less valued but the concept underlies much of the decision making at the legal system.

We can predict the natural course of the condition with a certain degree of confidence but we can't always be certain. There are still uncertainties about diagnosis.

Dr Mac Armstrong, secretary of the BMA, said: "These are very difficult issues and there are very difficult judges involved.

"We don't want to see 'cook book' medicine where doctors stick to the protocol, nor that doctors and patients are making decisions without the support of the system and then find themselves wrong-footed by the legal system."



Orangemen yesterday found their preferred route back to Portadown blocked by an impenetrable security cordon

Crispin Rodwell

Drumcree stand-off begins

THE SECURITY forces and the Orange Order yesterday took up positions for Drumcree 4, which is to be a stern test - of the resolve of Orangemen who want to march along the Garvagh Road, and of the authorities who forbid it.

The opening act of the drama had a cast of thousands, with around 5,000 Orangemen prevented from walking along the mainly Catholic thoroughfare after morning service at Drumcree parish church on the outskirts of Portadown, Co Armagh.

They were halted by 2,000 troops and police, with the help of a formidable array of fortifications. No attempt was made to break through the defences, but the Order is expected to launch protests elsewhere to pressure the authorities into lifting the ban on the march.

The blockage in the road, though made of modern materials, has features which add to the sense that a medieval siege has been recreated. Two cement-filled lorry containers have been placed at a bridge on

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

the narrow country lane connecting the church to the Garvagh Road, so as to completely seal it off.

In front of the containers, a high steel wall has been erected to form the modern equivalent of battlements. Police officers and troops can look down on the Orangemen from this vantage point.

The structure was augmented by a deep trench or moat together with numerous lines of barbed wire laid out across fields for thousands of yards.

The Orangemen complained

that the Government had turned the area "into something reminiscent of a war zone".

The atmosphere was generally calm during the afternoon, since proceedings so far have an air of established ritual. With the route blocked so thoroughly, the question is what is the Orangemen's plan to force a government change of mind?

The Orange Grand Master, Robert Saulters, said: "It's not a stand-off yet, they don't know what a stand-off is yet. But, brethren, I sincerely hope that none of you get into trouble or any injuries caused."

A number of roads in and around Belfast were briefly blocked by Orange supporters during the afternoon but were quickly cleared by police. Appeals for calm and for protests to be kept peaceful came from many sources.

The RUC Chief Constable, Ronnie Flanagan, promised that he would enforce the ban on the march. He declared: "The march will not be forced down. It is our responsibility to uphold the law and it is our responsibility to enforce the lawfully binding decision of the Parades Commission."

Tory anger at New Labour's 'sleazy' links to lobbyists

THE TORIES will demand an emergency Commons statement today on claims that former Labour employees working as lobbyists are offering inside information for cash.

Labour could also face the threat of angry trade union backers withdrawing funding from the party amid claims that lobbyists' clients had better access to ministers than they did.

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, was under pressure as one of his key aides, a former lobbyist, was accused of offering business access to government figures.

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

A number of existing lobbyists who used to work for Mr Blair, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Peter Mandelson were also caught up in the allegations. A newspaper report said they claimed to have access to unpublished government documents.

Francis Maude, the shadow chancellor, called for an investigation into the allegations last night. His colleagues will raise it in the Commons today. In a letter to Mr Brown he

said: "You will know that to trade in market-sensitive information is a serious criminal offence for which offenders may be sent to prison. It is essential that you mount an immediate and swift public investigation in order to restore the Treasury's good name."

The lobbyists told *Observer* journalists posing as American businessmen that they could obtain the text of the Chancellor's speeches in advance, could secure places for their clients on government task forces and help with winning approval for takeover bids.

Another was Ben Lucas, who ran Mr Blair's political briefing unit during the general election. He was said to have boasted that he knew the contents of the

But Downing Street dismissed the allegations as largely the result of bragging by certain individuals.

One of those at the centre of the allegations is Derek Draper, a former aide to Mr Mandelson, the Minister Without Portfolio, who is now a director of a lobbying firm called GPC. He said he knew the Chancellor's public spending plans in advance, when it was claimed.

Another was Ben Lucas, who ran Mr Blair's political briefing unit during the general election. He was said to have boasted that he knew the contents of the

Chancellor's Mansion House speech days before it was made.

The newspaper also claimed that Roger Liddle, a member of the Downing Street policy unit who founded a lobbying company called Prima Europe, told its reporters: "Just tell me what you want, who you want to meet and Derek [Draper] and I will make the call for you."

Last night, Mr Liddle put out a statement denying that he had made such a promise. In a statement, Mr Lucas' firm, Lawson, Lucas, Mendelsohn (LLM), said it had been misrepresented.

WHEN IT comes to attracting members of the opposite sex, men should avoid smelly feet and an overpowering floral-scented aftershave. Except, that is, when the female of the species is a mosquito.

New research has revealed that oozing body chemicals and floral fragrances are the attributes that make a female mosquito swoon with delight. So alluring is this cocktail of smells that she will hom in on it from 36 metres.

A review of insect repellents in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* magazine reveals that mosquitoes have favourite victims when they are looking for

man of generous proportions, wearing an aftershave with a strong artificial floral fragrance, and giving off plenty of carbon dioxide and body odours.

The review says that the insects use their eyes, noses and thermal sensors to pick out their preferred targets. Some species home in on feet.

The female does the biting, gulping down her own weight in blood every three or four days.

Despite continual attempts to find ways to make people less attractive to mosquitoes, the report says the chemical Deet remains the gold standard among repellents.

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"One ring and I was covered." — J.R.R. Tolkien

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They are called The Circle. But do these 17 people really run Britain?



TONY BLAIR
At the top of the pyramid. The Prime Minister's hair may be a little thinner than a year ago, his smile more strained, but he retains authority in one of the most disciplined governments of the post-war years.



GORDON BROWN
The second most influential man in the land, snapping at his master's heels. The Chancellor denies rumours of a rift with Blair but he has built a rival power base of aides and sees himself as the heir apparent.



PETER MANDELSON
The combative minister without portfolio is much misunderstood, say friends. His personal charms notwithstanding, Mandelson – the arch political fixer – remains a pivotal figure in government.



ALASTAIR CAMPBELL
Mr Nasty to Blair's Mr Nice. The PM's press secretary is ruthless in pursuit of a favourable gloss for Labour on day's events. Recently survived a grilling about his role by a parliamentary select committee.



JONATHAN POWELL
In a neat piece of political irony, Blair's chief of staff is the brother of Sir Charles Powell, Lady Thatcher's former adviser.



PHILIP GOULD
Labour's opinion pollster, he played a part in the recent replacement of the editor of the *Express* with a more Blair-friendly version.



JACK STRAW
When the son of a Home Secretary with a strict law-and-order agenda was arrested for selling cannabis, Straw handled the affair with tact, and was promoted to the unofficial cabinet "big-hitter".



SALLY MORGAN
Blair's political secretary, she levered favoured candidates into safe seats just before the election. Rumour has it Blair moved out of an office next to hers because she continually popped in to ask questions.



ED BALLS
Young – just 31 – and formidably clever. Gordon Brown's chief strategist and a close personal friend. Once wrote a speech for Brown with impenetrable reference to "neo-classical endogenous growth theory".



DAVID MILLIBAND
Director of the No 10 Policy Unit, the powerhouse of New Labour ideas. Brash, ambitious and good-looking – known as Donny Osmond at Oxford – he has a mental age of 46 and an IQ of 1000", according to one Labour old-timer.



CHARLIE WHELAN
Gordon Brown's fiercely loyal press secretary has an image to rival Campbell's. Once briefed newspaper editors about Brown's stance on monetary union via mobile telephone from the Red Lion pub in Whitehall.



JOHN PRESCOTT
Despite his Old Labour ideology, uncertain grasp of syntax and propensity for public gaffes, the Deputy Prime Minister is a powerful figure who chairs and sits on more Cabinet committees than any other minister.



ANJI HUNTER
A friend of Blair's since schooldays, she worked for him in opposition and is now a key member of his kitchen cabinet, the "gate-keeper to his office". An ebullient woman with a reputation for earthy language, she was recently rumoured to be a frontrunner for the new post of communications director at Buckingham Palace.



LORD IRVINE OF LAIRG
The Lord Chancellor, he of the £60,000 wallpaper, has been keeping his head down of late. Blair's mentor will never be able to shake off his prolific image, after row about the refurbishment of his official residence.



GEOFFREY NORRIS
A senior No 10 policy adviser. Once lambasted by John Prescott, "Who's Mr Norris?", Mr Norris is an official in the department.



ALASTAIR DARLING
The Chief Secretary to the Treasury is described as "chillingly numerate" by one commentator. Asked once about his attitude to money, Darling said: "Like everyone else's – I'd like to have lots of it."



ROGER LIDDLE
Another of "Tony's cronies", in charge of European affairs in No 10 policy unit. After a time with Lib Dem, now back in Labour fold. With Mandelson, wrote *The Blair Revolution*.



KARI MILNER
Of GJW showed off his insider knowledge by giving a putative client an advance copy of a Select Committee report.

PROFILES BY KATHY MARKS

IS BRITAIN ruled by a 17-strong and mostly unelected cabal? Yesterday the New Labour establishment choked over its coffee cups at the deeply embarrassing claims made by one of the new generation of commercial lobbyists about the government influence, access and information be could secure for his commercial clients.

Derek Draper, who was Peter Mandelson's researcher from 1992-6 and is now a self-styled "commentator fixer" who works at GPC Market Access, memorably summed up his potential usefulness to Sunday newspaper investigators posing as representatives of US energy firms. "There are 17 people who count," the newspaper reports him as saying.

He goes on to brag about his closeness to "The Circle" by adding "To say I am intimate with every one of them is the understatement of the century."

So doesn't anybody else now "count"? The 17 listed certainly include several of the most obviously powerful people in Britain, including Tony Blair. But the selection of many of them probably owes as much to their presence in Draper's no doubt hulking address book as to any scientific analysis of where power in Britain lies.

The Cabinet list is rather arbitrary. Robin Cook might be surprised – as well as relieved, given that he is now the youngest member of the No 10 Policy Unit in and others not. Don't Pat Macfadden, who covers constitutional matters, or Geoff Mulgan, Mr Social Exclusion, or Liz Lloyd, whose

given the context – to learn that Alistair Darling is part of the inner 17 but that as Foreign Secretary he isn't. So might David Blunkett, George Robertson, Given the huge transfer of power under way to Scotland Donald Dewar, who has the best chance of becoming First Minister, might get a look-in. And a lobbyist trying to cash in on any possible economic boom in Northern Ireland – distant a prospect as that seems today – would be ill advised not to try and secure access to Mo Mowlam, even though he might get short shrift.

Maybe Margaret Beckett, too, is "useless", as Draper is quoted as saying, and her department weak. But then again it might be that he is not on visiting terms with the Board of Trade President. Nor, given the Paymaster General's close access to the Chancellor and his understanding of the business world, is Geoffrey Robinson, exactly without influence.

Gordon Brown and his economic adviser Ed Balls are, of course, rightly on the list. But there are other inconsistencies – some members of the No 10 Policy Unit are in and others not. Don't Pat Macfadden, who covers constitutional matters, or Geoff Mulgan, Mr Social Exclusion, or Liz Lloyd, whose

brief ranges from law and order to environment (and whom Draper boasts as a pal) count?

Nor is there any mention of civil servants like Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary; and Head of the Home Civil Service, Andrew Turnbull, the new Treasury Permanent Secretary, Michael Scholar and Sir John Kerr, his intellectually equally formidable counterparts at the DTI and the Foreign Office, or officials like William Ricketts or Brian Bender in the Cabinet Office.

Or of John Holmes and Jeremy Heywood, who senior officials in the Prime Minister's private office enjoy continuous access to the Prime Minister. Or of Richard Hatfield, the brainy MOD civil servant who has been pivotal in the Strategic Defence Review.

This is not remotely to suggest that they would be susceptible to pressure from lobbyists, only that they are at least as important in running the country as – say – Sally Morgan, Tony Blair's political secretary.

This list of additions is itself pretty dubious. But it helps to demonstrate that it isn't quite as simple to locate the distribution of power as Draper has been grandiosely claiming to his clients and as some on that list of 17 no doubt think it is. What the list does reflect how-

ever is something real – a widespread perception that this government is trying to be one of the most centralised in history. It's perfectly true, paradoxically, that it has also devolved more power than any other, to the Bank of England, the Scottish Parliament, and the London Mayor – whom Mr Draper's friends in the lobbying industry will surely be making a beeline to as soon as he's elected.

But the authority that Blair, and therefore Blair's acolytes, seem to wield over the Cabinet itself seems pretty unprecedented. Is it? Having watched John Major buffeted by his powerful colleagues – Major lost at least two votes in Cabinet – Blair thought long and hard in Opposition about how to keep a grip on his government.

A strongly pro-active handle on the media is part of that. (Campbell, Mandelson & So are an interventionist Policy Unit (Milliband, Liddle, Norris) with the power and brains to appraise and influence policies flowing from the departments. So is a good understanding of public opinion (Gould). So, to quote the blueprint Mandelson and Liddle drew up in 1996, is a "lower profile, non-ministerial manager inside No 10 (Powell).

So is a "senior colleague

who can help smooth over friction and disagreements in Cabinet" (possibly but by no means definitely Mandelson after the Cabinet reshuffle).

All these, coupled with a majority Blair, didn't even dream about in Opposition, has helped to strengthen No 10's sway over the rest of government. So there is something in what Draper says. Nothing, however, is quite that easy. First, No 10 has a constant struggle to impose its will on departments. Ferdinand Mount, who worked for the last strong prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, was eloquent in his book on the British constitution on how powerfully Cabinet min-

isters could resist the will of Downing Street if they were brave enough – citing Peter Walker's obstinate refusal to break up privatised British Gas as an example.

Secondly the more publicity for the idea that a small cabal runs the country, the more temptation there is for Cabinet ministers to assert themselves in exactly that way – the one service Draper may have unwittingly performed for the cause of those who aren't on his list. Finally, the stresses between some of the biggest players on the list – Brown, Blair and perhaps Mandelson, ensure that even the modernisers are not such an effi-

cient, all-powerful bloc as they could be.

But that may not, ironically, be Draper's only unwitting service. For if nothing else the disclosures have underlined the real dangers of an unhealthy relationship between those who work in lobbying firms and those they used to work alongside returning Labour to power. It was not so smart, for example, for the governing party to engage all those bright New Labour lobbyists at a meeting three months ago to persuade their clients to make donations.

The Commons speaker, among others, is not going to be happy to read that one lobbyist

Kari Milner of GJW showed off his insider knowledge by giving a putative client an advance copy of a Select Committee report.

Lobbyists often exaggerate their influence – though it's striking that another ex-Labour man Collin Byrne, working for the blue chip firm Sandwick when approached by the Observer studiously refrained from doing so – and Mr Draper appears to have gone way over the top. But this can't all be dismissed as braggadocio. If the government can't keep these people at arms' length then Lord Neill, and perhaps a new system of regulation, may have to.

Milburn tipped for promotion to Cabinet

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

Mr Brown pointed out that the rising star was a shadow Treasury spokesman just before the election and suggested he would be a welcome addition to the Chancellor's team.

If he does move to the Treasury, Mr Milburn would replace Alistair Darling in the Chief Secretary's chair. Mr Darling has been tipped for a move to Social Security, where he would take over from Harriet Harman as Secretary of State.

Some commentators say Ms Harman might move to the Treasury, others that she might

become a Transport minister. Peter Mandelson, the Minister Without Portfolio, has also been at the centre of reports that he may be about to get a Cabinet job in charge of a new strategic planning and policy unit based in his current department, the Cabinet Office.

Both the Transport minister, Gavin Strang, and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, David Clark, have been tipped to lose their Cabinet jobs.

Growing irritation was detectable yesterday in both Mr Brown's and Mr Blair's offices about the level of speculation over both the forthcoming reshuffle and the reported ten-

sions between the occupants of No 10 and No 11.

A spokesman for Mr Brown dismissed reports that he was "at war" with Mr Blair over the future of the Paymaster General, Geoffrey Robinson, as "complete garbage".

One newspaper reported that the Brown camp had accused Mr Blair's supporters of mounting a campaign to destabilise Mr Robinson. There had been a dispute over the minister's future. Downing Street, it said, wanted him moved from the Treasury and No 11 was keen to stay there. The Prime Minister's official spokesman also dismissed the reports.

Royal train is put up for hire

BY ESTHER LEACH

swinging yuppies, look unlikely to materialise. The train, which is said to cost at least £10,000 each time it leaves the sidings, will only be hired out to government departments and agencies.

Sande Henney, a spokesperson for Buckingham Palace's travel office, said: "It's something we would like to encourage

age. For example, the G7 wives used it when they came over."

The use of the royal train, described as one of the Queen's favourite luxuries, has come under close scrutiny because of its cost.

The cost of royal travel arrangements has been met by the Department of Transport, the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. But last year it was

agreed that these costs would be met from a single grant of £19.5m, of which £1.9m was set aside for the cost of running the royal train.

Yesterday Ms Henney said they would like to consider requests for hire of the train from departments such as the Foreign Office, but corporate entertainment was not an option as "the configuration of the train just does not allow for it".

Visions of the train careering across the countryside, bearing armies of champagne-

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Make sure you are ready to log onto the World Wide Web to pick up the details when your rivals announce their latest products. With mobile

data, you may have found it less straightforward than it should be. You need all the right connectors. To plug a computer into a standard telephone socket means that you need the right lead. Different countries have a bizarre and incompatible range of

Why is the SH888 the best phone for mobile data?

To transfer data, PCs require a modem. Before the Ericsson SH888, a portable PC modem was contained in a PC card, which slotted inside

red when you transfer data, the drain on the battery is nominal too. And because it supports the IrDA protocol it is compatible with the widest range of PCs, laptops and PDAs (operating Windows CE 2.0). It's even compatible with the Psion 5 and the Palm III.

So how do I use the SH888 to connect to the Internet?

Connecting to the Internet with the SH888 is extremely simple, but it must be noted that you cannot just buy the hardware, switch it on and expect to browse the web.

Firstly you have to subscribe to an Internet service provider, either privately or through your company and then each time follow these simple steps. Activate your PC or PDAs infra-red port, select "Activate IR port" on the SH888's menu. Place the phone next to the computer, ensuring the infra-red ports are facing each other. Then either log into your office network or dial into your Internet service provider. Click onto your Internet icon and enter your desired address. For faster downloading you can opt to turn the images off.

And how do I use the SH888 for e-mail?

Sending and receiving e-mail is as simple as connecting to the Internet and follows much the same pattern - so again, you must

data you can do this wherever you are. The mobile phone freed you from having to stay in the office for an important call, mobile data will free you from being tied to your office PC. You can make sure that you are as well informed as your customers and suppliers by logging on from anywhere in the world and reading the information. Ericsson's new SH888 makes accessing the Internet on the move a practical proposition.

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The new SH888.

sockets. With the SH888 you don't need to worry about sockets and cables because it has an in-built PC card and communicates with your computer directly by infra-red using the same technology as a TV remote control. For international calls a mobile phone can also be substantially cheaper than paying hotel rates.

your computer. The in-built PC card and infra-red technology in the SH888 has a number of benefits, besides removing the need to carry the extra kit and the fact that it's cheaper to buy the SH888 than a mobile phone with separate cable and card. Traditionally PC cards rapidly drain a computer's battery, especially PDAs (Personal Digital Assistant) which use normal Alkaline batteries. Because the modem is built into the phone, the power isn't drawn from the PC. As the phone need only be used on infra-

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Church's new age of healing

PRAYERS FOR healing and exorcism are to be introduced for the first time into the Church of England's liturgy which is being revised in time for the Millennium.

Members of the General Synod yesterday debated the new liturgy of "Wholeness and Healing," which includes services for healing the sick with the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. They welcomed the recognition that healing practices are no longer confined to the charismatic, evangelical wing of the established Church.

The Right Reverend John Parry, the Bishop of Chelmsford and chair of the Churches' Council for Health and Healing said: "This is actually recognising the considerable growth of interest in healing inside and outside the Church in the last 20 years and its growing momentum."

"This is offering formal services which will help give that interest great strength and coherence."

He stressed that healing practices dated back to the early Church. "The Church has always been concerned with the ministry of healing right from the example of Jesus himself, who encouraged his disciples to be involved not only in teaching but also in healing the sick."

God, he added, is concerned for "the whole person." The liturgy recognises that "the physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being of human beings are closely connected." However, it rejects any "simple link between sickness and sin" and insists that prayer for healing should not involve any rejection of conventional medicine, which is "also part of God's faithfulness to creation."

Speaking in the Synod debate in York yesterday, the Rev Tony Higton, who has a parish in Chelmsford and has been the most prominent scourge of the Church of England on homosexuality, said that from now on he was going to concentrate his campaigning efforts on discovering a constructive response to the New Age.

"We need to look at complementary medicine, we need to have a dialogue with the New Age practitioners," said Mr Higton, who once a month holds a service for non-Christians.

"At our services we provide

BY CLARE GARNER

beautiful objects for people to meditate on, and relaxing music. I do not believe in crystal healing, but crystals are very beautiful objects and we can use them to meditate on heaven."

He added that the Church of England was "too cerebral" on the subject of the New Age, adding: "We need to relate to where non-Church people are at."

John Marsh, Archdeacon of Blackburn and Chairman of the Trustees of Anglican Renewal Ministries, said that the Church of England has been slow to recognise the prevalence of healing services, but added: "If it helps more churches get into that particular ministry because it has got the official blessing of the Church and some official liturgy, that's great."

Mr Marsh said that while he could not "reel off a long string of miracles", he had witnessed people receiving physical healing. "Often physical symptoms have psychological causes," he said.

The classic gospel story illustrating that is about the paralysed man who is let down through the roof to Jesus. Before Jesus said "Get up and walk," he said "your sins are forgiven."

The liturgy stresses that prayers for healing "should not imply that the restoration of physical wholeness is the only way in which Christ meets human need."

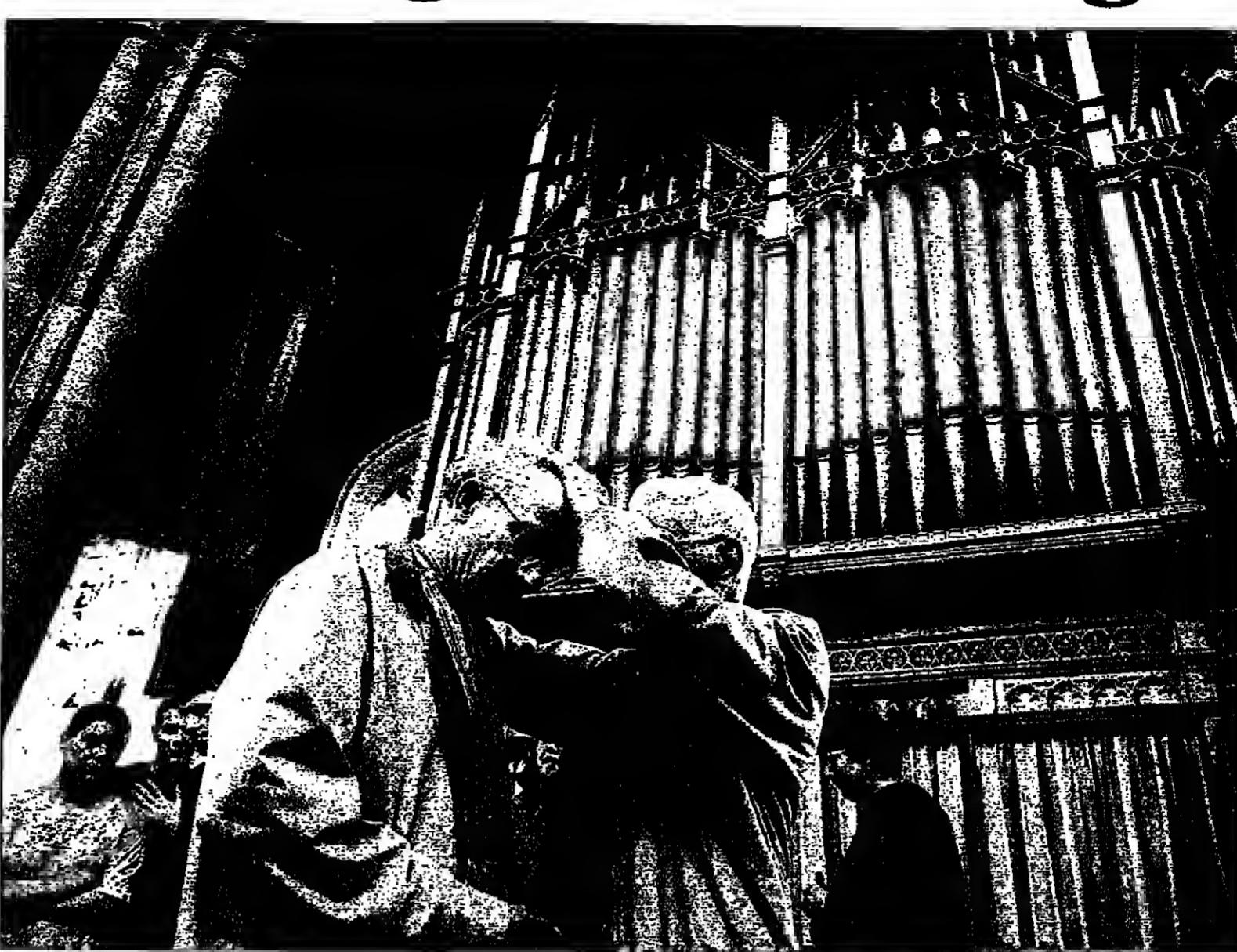
The Right Reverend John Parry said that he is always careful "not to raise expectations beyond a certain point."

He said: "I would want to ensure that someone was prayed for with great sensitivity. I believe that God reaches out to that person and in some way will bless and strengthen that person, though it may not be physically in any way should a cure be promised."

The Right Reverend John Hind believes that the growing interest in healing is related to trends in society. "We are losing any central focus of identity and lacking a very common set of agreed values," he said.

"so people experience alienation and disintegration in all sorts of ways. We need to look at the significance of the role of meditation and healing."

"At our services we provide



Worshippers being encouraged to lend their support with prayer at a service at St Michael-Le-Belfrey church in York

Ian Duncan

Carey urges end to 'cult of Diana'

BY CLARE GARNER

THE ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury has urged churches to discourage inappropriate outpourings of emotion on the anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

In a clear endorsement of

the Archbishop of York's con-

demnation of the growing cult of Diana, Dr George Carey has written to his clergy in the Canterbury diocese asking them to "discourage any temptation to stimulate emotion deliberately which would exploit the memory of the Princess".

Dr Hope, who as Bishop of London three years ago had

private contacts with Diana,

also criticised the Diana Muse-

um opened last week by her brother, Earl Spencer, at Althorp House, saying it was "the last thing she would have wanted".

He said the museum, which

contains Diana memorabilia

and footage of her as a child

was inappropriate to her mem-

ory. "Her museum would be

people - lives changed, wounds healed, bodies remod-

elled and remade. That is what

she would have wanted. She

would be saying to people:

"Don't think about me, rather

think about the causes I tried

to affect to make the world a

better place."

"We need to begin to move

on and part of that moving is

in the letting go. It is hard to

do this with a constant stream

of photographs of her every

day. We need to move away

from clinging to the icon. There is

some element of wallowing in

her death."

The Bishop of Salisbury, the

Rt Rev David Stancliffe, yes-

terday echoed Dr Hope's

remarks, saying: "People have

lost their sense of the future

and of destiny, which is what

God wants, not what we want."

He said that banning land

mines would be a far better way

of remembering Diana than

visiting the museum.

Dr Carey has left it to indi-

vidual local churches how best

to include appropriate prayers

on Sunday August 30th, and

how to be accessible on the

anniversary the next day.

He concluded in his letter to his

clergy the special prayers he

read at Diana's funeral. The

north lawn of Westminster

Abbey, where the funeral was

held, will be available for the

laying of flowers.

**Pay by results
leads to jealousy'**

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

PAY BASED on performance has forced hundreds of thousands of public servants to work harder, but the impact is unlikely to last, according to the first detailed study of the system across government-funded services.

Researchers at the London School of Economics found that while productivity improved under the system, it had undermined morale and caused widespread jealousy and resentment. Many employees said the approach was simply used by managers to reward their favourites.

At the Inland Revenue, which pioneered the method in the Civil Service, the attitude of employees has significantly worsened since it was introduced. In 1991 62 per cent of Revenue staff said the technique caused jealousy and 65 per cent reported that it undermined morale. Five years later the proportions were 86 per cent and 81 per cent.

The report shows that line managers and their subordinates generally endorsed the principle of performance-related pay.

The one exception was head teachers, particularly at the primary level, who believed that the approach did not lend itself to schools because of the difficulty of measuring performance and the ill-will it would cause in the staff room.

At the centre of the findings was the seeming paradox that performance had been raised but motivation and co-operation damaged by the system. The Centre for Economic Performance at the LSE, which conducted the research among 5,000 employees, said it ensured that managers set targets and staff had to work harder to achieve them.

The system of staff appraisal which is integral to performance pay was a welcome chance to discuss and clarify objectives. A significant minority however saw appraisals simply a means of making people work harder.

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EU law could safeguard gay rights

GAYS, RELIGIOUS groups, the disabled, and the elderly could be protected against discrimination under plans being discussed by the Council of Europe.

The proposed reform to the European Convention on Human Rights would have immense implications for British law. For example, it could give gay couples the same benefit and pension rights as married couples. It could protect employees from discrimination on the grounds of age and people of all

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

religions from any bias on the grounds of their creed.

Although the discussions are still a long way from completion, the reform would certainly delight a whole range of campaign groups.

The existing European Convention does have an anti-discrimination clause in it, but it only applies to the areas covered by the convention. It cov-

ers personal freedom and civil rights but does not apply to areas such as employment, housing or the provision of goods and services.

Officials are now discussing adding a new protocol to the convention which would protect against discrimination on any grounds. The convention is currently passing into British law, and ministers would have to consider whether to accept the new provision. If they did ratify it, British courts would be

able to adjudicate on a whole raft of discrimination cases which they have never touched in the past.

Although UK law has separate statutes banning discrimination on the grounds of race or sex, groups such as gays, the elderly and religious minorities have no such formal protection.

The Home Office minister, Mike O'Brien, confirmed the move in a Parliamentary debate on the Human Rights Bill, that incorporates the convention

into British law. The British delegation to the European Commission was playing an active part in the debate, he said.

Those who are considering whether there should be a new free-standing provision will have to consider its effect, not only on domestic problems in our courts, but on the Strasbourg court and the cases that are brought before it. We should not pre-judge the situation," the minister said.

Organisations fighting for

equal rights for gays and lesbians would be particularly pleased with the change. After MPs voted to lower the age of consent to 16 for gay men last month, they promised to continue fighting for equality in areas where they can still be discriminated against. For example, gay and unmarried couples do not have automatic rights to inherit each other's pensions or to social security payments on the same basis as married people.

Peter Tatchell, of the gay and lesbian rights group Outrage!, has been campaigning for an amendment for nearly 20 years.

"The European Convention was drafted half a century ago.

It is now very out of date and needs modernising. When it was originally approved there was very little awareness of new social issues, such as disability and sexuality," he said.

Lord Lester, QC and expert on human rights law, said an article in the International Con-

vention on Civil and Political Rights also guaranteed equal treatment. It was enforced by the UN's Human Rights Committee, whose jurisdiction had not been accepted by the British government.

The United Nations Association hoped the Government would accept the committee's jurisdiction as that would be a quicker route to anti-discriminatory rights. At present, there seemed to be no rush for a new EU law. Lord Lester added.

Charles and May Tien with their daughter Sarah, who appreciate the space – and the functionality – Milton Keynes has to offer

Kalpesh Lathigra

have a clean, healthy place with green fields to look at. It is like living in the countryside and the town at the same time."

The Hong Kong Chinese did not stumble on Milton Keynes by chance. Their minds were swayed by a promotional video produced two years ago in Cantonese by the New Homes Group, an initiative driven by house builders and a government land agency that promoted lifestyle, business and properties and was shown around the territory.

It worked. Borough council figures recorded 70 Chinese children in school in December 1996 and 317 by last Easter. Although there are no official figures showing the total growth of the community, John Wong reckoned 2,000 families was a fair estimate based on property sales and inquiries.

"Clean, neat, safe, new – that is what they want and that is what they got here," he said.

"The Feng Shui is meant to be very good as well, apparently. All the right lines of energy are meant to cross here and there is a lot of open water which means good fortune if your house faces it."

Mr Wong does not believe Milton Keynes' Chinese community is big enough to be worthy of the "Little Hong Kong" tag yet, but at the rate it is expanding it has not got long to go.



How Milton Keynes has become 'Little Hong Kong'

THOUSANDS OF Hong Kong Chinese families who fled the territory in advance of the takeover a year ago have begun new lives in some of the world's most glamourous cities – Vancouver, Los Angeles, Sydney ... and Milton Keynes.

As the territory's governor, Chris Patten and Prince Charles were getting drenched in the rain while heating retreat from Hong Kong this time last year, the Chinese middle classes were already in or heading for the Buckinghamshire new town.

Up to 2,000 Chinese families are estimated to have relocated here in the past three or four years, well above the average influx from the territory for a town of its size (barely 200,000 residents).

Almost all took advantage of the Government's British Nationality Act, which guaranteed citizenship to 50,000 families who wanted to leave before the tanks rolled in.

Now there are two Chinese schools teaching lessons in Cantonese, a Chinese Christian church and a community centre – the foundations of a

BY MATTHEW BRACE
in Milton Keynes

significant and growing community.

This year's Chinese New Year celebrations were thrown into chaos because the hall was nowhere near big enough to hold all the guests, such has been its rapid growth.

Milton Keynes' fame has spread back to the territory where the Chinese newspapers call it "Little Hong Kong". But why did they come here instead of some of England's more picturesque towns?

John Wong, a property consultant who was born in Hong Kong but has lived in Milton Keynes for the past 15 years, believes it was because the smart neighbourhoods of London and Manchester were out of their price range and the rest of England was too "old world" for them. MK, like HK, was a gleaming, modern, functional place.

Milton Keynes brought us concrete cows and Britain's first colossal US-style shopping mall, an altar to consumerism opened by Margaret Thatcher and later

graced by Cliff Richard, who shot a pop video here. This shopping mecca is the town centre – a sprawling arcade surrounded by car parks and split up by three roads with an inappropriate Stone Age theme – Silbury, Midsummer and Avebury Boulevards.

And it is growing. Some housing estates are so new their street signs dazzle in the sunlight, their pavements untouched by dog mess. Here among the clipped lawns the Chinese have made their new home.

"Hong Kong Chinese people cannot stand living in anything old – look at Hong Kong, you can hardly find anything there over ten years old," said Mr Wong. "Milton Keynes is new, clean and safe and that is what

the Hong Kong Chinese like. Also, the house prices are very low."

Compared to London – a commutable 40-minute drive south down the M1 – properties are going for a song. A new, three-bedroom bungalow with two-car garage costs between £110,000 and £130,000.

"Some people cannot believe it when they look for a house here. They are used to living in a small flat in a Hong Kong tower block and suddenly they have all this space for the same amount of money," said Mr Wong.

Charles and May Tien and their eight-year-old daughter Sarah recently exchanged their matchbox on the 16th floor of a high-rise in Hong Kong for a spacious house on

Kents Hill, a housing development on the east of Milton Keynes – and they are still marvelling at the difference.

"Our apartment was very small and obviously we had no garden or outdoor space at all," said Mr Tien.

"We looked straight in the window of the apartment in the block opposite to ours, less than 50 metres away. Now we

Cannabis may limit damage from strokes

CANNABIS COULD protect brain cells against the effects of a stroke and may help to slow the mental deterioration associated with neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

Scientists have found that a component of marijuana acts as a powerful antioxidant in the brain which can prevent cells being damaged when a blood vessel in the head becomes blocked during a stroke.

Experiments revealed that cannabidiol, which is a harmless constituent of marijuana and does not produce a "high", is a more powerful antioxidant than vitamins C and D, which are known to neutralise the highly damaging free radicals released during a stroke.

Dr Aidan Hampshire, a British-born researcher at the United States National Institute of Mental Health, near Washington DC, said the discovery could eventually lead to a treatment for stroke based on the cannabis plant.

"We have reason to believe we are on a good thing here. Cannabidiol was given to humans in large doses in other clinical trials with no significant adverse effects," Dr Hampshire said.

"We could synthesise it and administer it to patients as a pill, in an inhaler or even as a suppository, although that would not be as popular. It is non-psychotropic which makes it particularly useful."

The research, which is published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, also found that the mind-alter-

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

ing ingredient of cannabis – tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) – also behaved as a potent antioxidant which protected brain cells against the sort of oxygen starvation caused by a stroke.

The US National Academy of Sciences, which publishes the proceedings, said: "These findings suggest that cannabidiol may be a promising treatment for stroke and other neurological disorders including Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, which are also thought to involve oxidative damage."

Dr Hampshire said that when a blood vessel in the brain becomes blocked a complex set of reactions takes place that culminates in the power houses of the cell, called mitochondria, pumping out free radicals.

When he exposed the nerve cells of laboratory animals to cannabidiol he found it significantly reduced the damage resulting from the release of free radicals. The dose levels were similar to those known to be safe in humans.

"These are the very first results and I would be surprised if we get through all the stages of drug trials for humans in less than five or six years," Dr Hampshire said.

However, the research findings do not explain whether people who smoke cannabis are less likely to suffer ill effects following a stroke. "We don't know whether smoking produces these levels of cannabidiol," he said.

IN BRIEF

Fall in cost of rural theft

THE COST of rural crime has fallen for the first time in four years, according to figures released yesterday. The total bill for theft in countryside areas in the United Kingdom in 1997 was £93.1m – a drop of 8.3 per cent on the total of £101.5m in the previous year, the leading rural insurer, NFU Mutual, said.

The biggest drops were in the North-east and the South-east, where levels fell by more than 20 per cent. However, Wales saw an increase of 44 per cent as the estimated cost of rural theft in 1997 shot up to £4.8m. The largest single element of the bill was vehicle thefts, which accounted for claims worth £73m.

Man on Wesley charge

AN 18-year-old man was due to appear before magistrates today charged with the murder of 11-year-old Wesley Nealey who disappeared from his Newcastle-upon-Tyne home a month ago. Dominic McMilligan, from Newcastle, was charged with murder last night after police recovered a boy's body in rural Northumberland.

Hague says it with flowers

TORY leader William Hague, right, yesterday returned to the hospital where he recently underwent an operation on his sinuses. It was the second time in 10 days he had been to Darlington Memorial Hospital, Co Durham, but this time he took his wife, Fiona. He presented staff with chocolates and flowers.



Pensioner killed in glider accident

AN INVESTIGATION was under way yesterday after a pensioner was killed when she was hit by a glider. Margaret Ostle, 68, from Newport, Shropshire, was walking near Long Mynd Gliding Club, Church Stretton, when she was struck down on Friday night. She was pronounced dead at the scene. The pilot was uninjured.

Power showers may need licence
POWER-SHOWERS users may need to apply for a special licence before they turn them on, under government plans for saving water expected to be announced today by the Environment minister Michael Meacher. Other expected measures include encouraging the use of dual-flush lavatory cisterns and washing machines and dishwashers that consume less water.

Snowdon summit is up for sale

THE SUMMIT of Mt Snowdon, the highest peak in England and Wales, and more than 4,000 acres in Snowdonia National Park are up for sale. Interested buyers will have to part with more than £2m for the estate, which includes about one-third of Mount Snowdon and its 3,557ft peak. Richard Williams, owner of the estate, decided to sell the land to concentrate on his Anglesey farm.

Two share £13m lottery jackpot
TWO WINNERS shared last night's National Lottery rollover jackpot of £13,098,698. Camelot said the winning numbers were 49, 29, 9, 32, 15 and 25. The bonus was 14.

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RICHARD BRANSON

'It is the brand based around personality, reputation, good employee conditions and a mission which has stood the test of time'

— THE MONDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4 →

لبنان

Councils told to sell prize assets

LOCAL AUTHORITIES are being told by the Treasury to sell swimming pools, recreation centres, and offices in the High Street to deliver asset sales of £2.75bn a year to meet the Chancellor's spending targets.

Gordon Brown has left the local authorities to contribute the lion's share of the money from the asset sales he announced last month totalling £4bn a year over the next three years. Of that, only £1bn a year is due from the privatisation of Government assets, such as the national air traffic control system (Nats).

A Treasury source said: "They have plenty of assets in development land, the High Street and recreation centres they could raise money on. We are telling them to go ahead with the sell-offs."

Selling cherished assets could lead to protests, but local authorities believe they can hit the Chancellor's targets without such drastic measures. They already expect to raise £2.5bn in England over 1998-9 largely from transfers of housing to housing associations. They have no intention of trying to reverse the Government's ban on the sale of playing fields to meet targets.

The Labour-controlled Association of Local Government will tell the Chancellor today they can meet his demands, but they want the Treasury spending rules over the town halls to be scrapped, allowing them to keep 100 per cent of the cash they raise from privatisation.

In their own white paper today, the local authorities will tell the Treasury to end the system under which non-hous-

ing assets are split 50-50 with the Government, and 75 per cent of money from council house sales repays debt.

The councils are flexing their muscles in advance of a government White Paper, due before the end of the month, which will propose revamping local government. It is being drawn up by the local government minister, Hilary Armstrong, who has held extensive consultations on her plans.

Reviving local authority finances is more tricky. John Prescott, Ms Armstrong's boss at the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, has been trying to persuade the Chancellor to allow local councils to borrow for new building on the revenue from their council houses, like housing associations. The Treasury is resisting the idea, in spite of allowing council-owned airports at Manchester, Norwich and Newcastle to borrow on their assets for expansion.

The Treasury is worried that giving carte blanche to local authorities to borrow could lead to some going bankrupt, and increase public borrowing unless it is excluded for the first time from the public sector borrowing requirement.

Relaxing all the spending limits will raise fears in the Treasury that the economy could overheat, but the local authorities will argue today that they will be prudent, and the economy needs the boost they could bring, particularly in construction jobs, to avoid recession.

DOZENS OF child refugees are being put behind bars by the immigration service because they arrive in Britain on false passports in the names of adults.

The Refugee Council revealed yesterday that 51 children, as young as 13-years-old, had been locked up since the beginning of last year. Immigration staff are often reluctant to release the children, who arrive unaccompanied by parents, even when paediatric reports show them to be under 18.

Officials argue that because

the refugee children have attempted to enter the country on a false name they cannot be trusted not to abscond and so must be kept in detention.

But Nick Hardwick, chief executive of the Refugee Council, said: "You have children who have been through the most desperate circumstances. They may have seen their parents killed, they have been taken away from the people they love and had a traumatic journey to get here and then they get

thrown behind bars."

He has written to Mike O'Brien, the Immigration minister, calling for the system to be changed to ensure no more children are incarcerated.

Simon Russell, refugee officer at Amnesty International, said: "Detention of refugee children is illegal under international law. It's scandalous that the UK treats some of the most helpless people in the world in such an uncivilised manner."

He said Britain had the worst record in Europe for detention of refugees. Among the cases identified by the Refugee Council are:

■ A Nigerian girl who was released from Campsfield in Oxfordshire, after medical reports concluded she was a minor, but not before she had become pregnant inside the centre;

■ A Chadian girl released from Campsfield after paediatricians concluded that she was only 15. She has since been given exceptional leave to enter Britain, and

■ A Tunisian girl who fled to Britain after suffering severe sexual abuse in Tunisia. She was only released from Campsfield after medical reports showed she was 17. Also given leave to enter.

Minors have also been held in Haslar detention centre, Hampshire; Tinsley House, Surrey, and Rochester jail in Kent.

Two 17-year-old youths were among the so-called Campsfield Nine asylum seekers who were accused of orchestrating a riot at the immigration centre last year. The case collapsed in court but the two youths, who were treated by the criminal justice system as juveniles,

were held in detention by the immigration service. One is in a secure psychiatric hospital after attempting suicide, the other was released from Rochester jail on bail last week after two years in detention.

Dr Patricia Wallis, honorary consultant paediatrician at Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals in London, has examined 25 refugees who were suspected of being minors. In 80 per cent of cases the refugees had proved to be under-18, with the youngest being a girl of 14.

Life comes full circle for first NHS baby



June Catterall meeting new arrival Jack Atkinson yesterday. Above right: As she was 50 years ago - the first NHS baby Martin Rickett



BY MARK OLIVER

THE FIRST baby to be born on the National Health Service joined its 50th birthday celebrations yesterday and made a new friend.

June Catterall returned to the ward at North Manchester General Hospital where she was born at two minutes past midnight on 5 July 1948.

There, she met Jack Atkinson, the first baby to be delivered at the fledgling NHS had cared for her after she was born a month premature ill with jaundice. "If I'd been just a few minutes earlier my parents would have to have paid."

She went on: "The NHS is so special, what it does is unbelievable and we don't realise it until we need it. Hopefully it will be with us in another 50 years."

Child refugees 'illegally held' in UK

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

DOZENS OF child refugees are being put behind bars by the immigration service because they arrive in Britain on false passports in the names of adults.

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The usual problem with safe sets

FIRST NIGHT PARTY IN THE PARK, HYDE PARK, LONDON

TWO YEARS ago Alanis Morissette, Bob Dylan, The Who and Eric Clapton packed Hyde Park for the Prince's Trust Charity Post Diana pre-millennium, the organisation has moved from rock's past to pop's present. Going for a younger demographic is fine in theory, but the reality is that much like the orators at Speaker's Corner pop now speaks in so many languages, it is hard to reflect its variety in a single event.

Capital Radio's Party in the Park attempted to square the pop circle and played safe. And only succeeded fitfully. The idea of 22 acts appearing one after the other harks back to the package tours of the Sixties. Since many people know only three or four songs by most artists, giving listeners what they already know has ensured Capital Radio's dominance of the London airwaves.

Reproducing a tightly-formatted playlist on stages in



Natalie Imbruglia, live all the way

Emma Boam

front of 100,000 spectators proved a taller order. Given the restrictions of time and space and the reliance on belly-button acts who exist mostly on television screens and in the pages of teen magazines, the enterprise was fraught with pitfalls.

The question for artists was not what to perform but how to perform: mime, sing live vocals on top of DAT tapes, or really play live?

On the tiny satellite stage soulstress Lutricia McNeal and the pathetic Julian Lennon suffered with some problems early on while Del Amitri soldiered on admirably. On the main

stage, Gary Barlow was the opening attraction. He brought on his former Take That colleague Howard Donald but the frenetic nature of today's pop meant half the teenage crowd struggled to recognise him.

Later on, Boyzone similarly proved their sell-by date is fast approaching. Wearing stupidly long black overcoats in the beat and too many backing vocalists, they were about as relevant as a faded postcard from last year's summer romance.

But really it was an afternoon for Girl Power. Canadian country star Shania Twain, legs astride an invis-

ible horse, barn-stormed through "Still the One" and "When". Natalie Imbruglia pouted and thrashed her way through her mega-hit "Torn". At least she and her band played live live.

By Royal Appointment All Saints lived up to their billing with a set to make Prince William and Prince Harry blush, and on this showing could last another year.

Knicker-wetting pop being the order of the day, Tom Jones, the original British singing Romeo, spanned the generation gap in a show-stealing performance which warranted a longer time slot.

PIERRE PERRONE

Three car giants 'fix British prices'

THREE CAR manufacturers could be fined up to 10 per cent of their turnover by the European Commission for fixing car prices in Britain.

BBC's Panorama will claim tonight that Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz and Volvo have "secret understandings" with their UK dealer networks to push up prices. Research sug-

gests that British car prices are on average around £1,000 higher than elsewhere in Europe.

The European Commission competition commissioner, Karel Van Miert, is investigating car pricing in Europe and has declared that he will not

hesitate to fine manufacturers if he concludes they are fixing prices. The commission has the power to demand up to 10 per cent of European turnover.

The accountants KPMG are analysing car prices over the past 10 years. The firm found that British consumers paid 6.6 per cent more than the

average European across the whole range of models. The mark-up was described by KPMG as "pure profit".

The manufacturers deny breaking the law and say dealers are free to set whatever price they want.

The Consumer Affairs minister, Nigel Griffiths, will refer the new evidence to Brussels.

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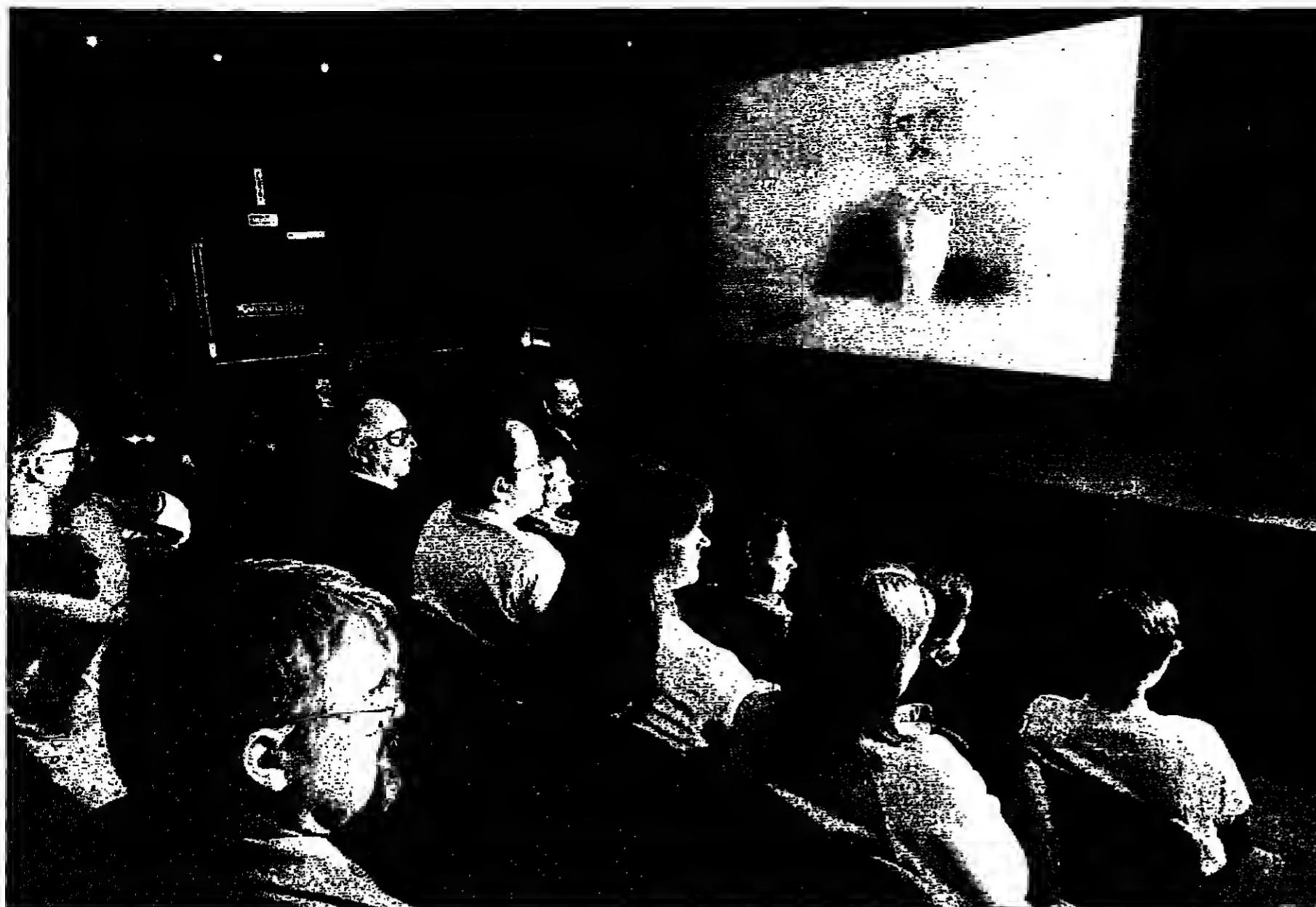
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Includes £75 acceptance fee. Excess mileage charged at 10 pence per mile (<VAT).

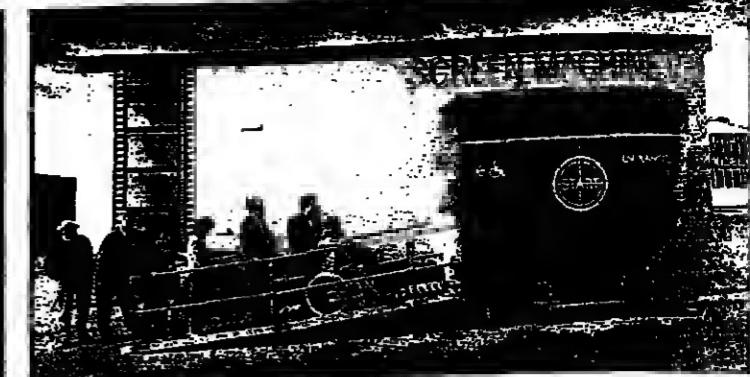
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It's worth a double take.



Cinema goers in the Scottish Highlands experience the mobile big screen, above, which opens out from a 40ft-long trailer, top right



Moving pictures take to the glens

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

BRITAIN'S FIRST mobile cinema is due to take to the road next month, bringing the latest feature films to isolated communities in the highlands and islands of Scotland.

It isn't the first time cinema has penetrated the glens north and west of Inverness, an area the size of Belgium gloriously devoid of either Rank or Odeon. Up until 25 years ago, people in the small fishing villages and crofter townships were able to watch movies in the local hall courtesy of the Highlands and Islands Film Guild.

But community halls are often draughty places and once the white-washed cottages had television, audiences evaporated and the portable screens were packed away for good.

A visit to the cinema today from some of the Highland communities could involve a round-trip of 100 miles. The only ones are at Inverness, Fort William, Aviemore, Campbeltown, the Kintyre peninsula and Kirkwall on the island of Orkney.

But from this summer highlanders should be able to watch films in the equivalent of a city centre multiplex, with wrap-around sound and reclining seats, in their own towns and villages.

Two thirds of the money for the £260,000 project has come from the lottery through the Scottish Arts Council and additional support has been given by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), Scottish Screen and the Post Office.

The Screen Machine resembles a large, articulated delivery lorry. The 40ft trailer telescopes outwards to form a luxurious 110-seater auditorium, while the tractor unit generates electricity. Not everywhere will be accessible. But the operators are determined to reach as many communities as possible and plan to use ferries to island-hop down the Western Isles.

Robinson ally linked to Maxwell theft

THE MAN supporting Geoffrey Robinson's claim that he did not receive a £200,000 "loyalty payment" from a Robert Maxwell company is an accountant who has been off for helping Maxwell steal £50m.

Michael Stoney, who authorised the disputed payment, allowed Maxwell to steal the millions and then hid the theft from fellow accountants, according to the disciplinary tribunal that dismissed him.

News of the disgrace of Mr Robinson's colleague - both were former directors of Hollis

BY STEVE BOGGAN

Industries Plc under Maxwell's ownership - is likely to cause further embarrassment to the beleaguered Paymaster General.

He will learn tomorrow whether the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee accepts his claim not to have received the money. It was not recorded in the Members' Register of interests, in spite of Hollis Industries company accounts showing he received £200,000 in 1990.

Mr Stoney, 50, was deputy

managing director (finance) of Mirror Group Newspapers at the time of Maxwell's death in November 1991. He has backed Mr Robinson's claim not to have received the money at the centre of the parliamentary inquiry. Mr Robinson had been involved in an unsuccessful management buyout of Hollis Industries from Maxwell, who bought the company back in 1990.

Mr Stoney told *The Independent*: "At that time, Geoffrey Robinson was made non-executive chairman of the company by Robert Maxwell, who asked

him to keep a watching brief over the engineering business.

"I wrote to our accountants asking them to provide for a £200,000 fee [for Mr Robinson]. The provision was made in the November 1990 accounts for a director's emolument to be paid to Mr Robinson."

However, he said no money was paid but he forgot to inform the accountants. "The subsequent accounts [recording the £200,000] were incorrect and I must take the blame," he said. He added that he did not know why the fee was not paid.

Mr Stoney said he was contacted by Mr Robinson "recently" and told to comment freely about his recollections.

He was too so free, however, with his comments about three charges of conspiracy to defraud Bankers Trust Plc of £50m and of concealing the fraud from Mirror Group Newspapers shareholders. Verdicts of "not guilty" were entered into criminal proceedings when it was decided not to try him after Kevin and Ian Maxwell were acquitted.

The evidence against him did get an airing, however, last year by the Joint Disciplinary Tribunal of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales and the Scottish ICA.

It found he had helped

Maxwell secure a £50m loan from Bankers Trust that was to have been for the sole use of MGN, which had been floated and was 49 per cent-owned by outside investors. Maxwell held 51 per cent of the shares.

But the money was transferred to Maxwell Newspapers Inc in New York, a subsidiary of the privately-owned Robert

Maxwell Group. The money subsequently disappeared and Mr Stoney made interest payments on the loan out of MGN's bank accounts, even though it was a Maxwell private company that had taken the money.

"On November 4 1991 [the day before Maxwell died], interest became due on the loan and [Mr Stoney] told Mr Kevin Maxwell that it was unfair for MGN to pay it because he had no idea where the money was," the tribunal wrote.

"Notwithstanding, [Mr Stoney] signed a bank mandate on a MGN account in respect of £243,904.11 and did not, between 21 October 1991 and 30 November 1991, inform any member of MGN's accounts staff, or anyone else for that matter, of the existence of the loan in spite of several meetings of the board of MGN."

The tribunal excluded him from membership of the ICA and censured him, saying he had displayed "gross contempt for the principles of honesty and integrity". He declined to discuss the charges, saying he had been found not guilty by the court.

A weird relationship with the crooked press baron

ERNEST BURRINGTON, former chairman of Mirror Group Newspapers, was puzzled. Why was a man who had made his millions in publishing and newspapers suddenly so interested in buying engineering companies?

"Maxwell wasn't into engineering at all but all of a sudden he was getting involved in deals which we just couldn't understand," Mr Burrington recalled. "But, being the kind of man he was, he was always doing things his own way. It was all very weird."

The deals the former MGN chairman was talking about are now the subject of a parliamentary inquiry into the affairs of Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, who has been an embarrassment to Labour since details emerged of his strange relationship with a Belgian businesswoman, Joska Bourgeois, who left him £12.75m in a trust fund when she died.

There was further embarrassment when it was discovered

BY STEVE BOGGAN
AND ANDREW MULLINS

that the Labour MP for Coventry North West had offshore tax arrangements clearly designed to legally reduce his liability at a time when he had been put in charge of a crackdown on tax evasion.

And some Labour MPs find it difficult to accept the socialist credentials of a man who has two mansions in Britain, an estate in Tuscany, and a luxury apartment in Cannes left to him by Madame Bourgeois.

But it is his relationship with

Maxwell, the man who stole £400m from pension funds, that threatens to be his undoing. Mr Robinson has always denied being involved with Maxwell to any significant extent but as details of their business relationship emerge, that relationship is beginning to appear more substantial than the Treasury minister has admitted.

The men clearly had much in common - they were rich and held political views to the left of centre, they considered themselves self-made and they were both particularly adept at negotiating hard deals. They may

have met in Labour circles - Maxwell, too, had been an MP - but their first solid business relationship can be traced back to 1987, when Mr Robinson joined the board of Central & Sheerwood, an industrial and property conglomerate chaired by Maxwell.

During the 1970s, Mr Robinson had run British Leyland's Italian arm Innocenti, and by 1974, at the age of 34, he had moved on and risen to the ranks of managing director at Jaguar. It was then that he met Madame Bourgeois, who had a franchise to sell the marque in Belgium. Their friendship flourished when he advised her on the sale of her company for £15m in 1979.

But it is his relationship with Maxwell, the man who stole £400m from pension funds, that threatens to be his undoing. Mr Robinson has always denied being involved with

Maxwell to any significant extent but as details of their business relationship emerge, that relationship is beginning to appear more substantial than the Treasury minister has admitted.

That was when an impressed

Robert Maxwell began to take notice of the younger Mr Robinson. Maxwell invited him on to

the board of Central & Sheerwood in 1987, from which point their involvement with each other appears to have grown. The following year, Mr Robinson joined Maxwell on the board of Hollis, a former furniture and timber company that had diversified into engineering, and in 1988 Mr Robinson became part of a £115m management buyout of the engineering arm of the company, emerging with the title of non-executive chairman of newly-formed Hollis Industries.

Maxwell had retained a stake in the company and when a combination of bad luck and high interest rates - which saw factories closed and hundreds made redundant - brought it to its knees, the tycoon bought it back for a nominal sum, and Mr Robinson joined him on the board of Pergamon AG.

It was at this point, in 1990, according to company accounts, that Mr Robinson was paid a £200,000 loyalty fee by the Maxwell private empire, a sum Mr Robinson said he did not receive.

His version of events is supported by Michael Stoney, one of Maxwell's closest advisers

and a fellow Hollis director.

"The accounts are wrong," he told *The Independent*. "I wrote to our accountants asking them to provide for a £200,000 fee [for Mr Robinson]. The provision was made in the November 1990 accounts for a director's emolument to be paid to Mr Robinson."

He said no money was paid but he forgot to inform the accountants. "The subsequent accounts [recording the £200,000] were incorrect and I must take the blame."

When the Maxwell empire collapsed after his death in 1991, Mr Stoney was charged with Kevin Maxwell of conspiring to defraud the Bankers Trust Company of £50m. Three charges accused him of arranging a loan for MGN but then using it for Maxwell's private companies without detailing the debt in MGN's records.

The court recorded not

guilty verdicts after the collapse of the trial of Kevin and Ian Maxwell when the prosecution offered no evidence against him.

Perhaps the most puzzling deal that turned Mr Robinson into a millionaire but many observers said the price paid by Maxwell was way too high - as much, some have argued, as six times more than the company was worth.

Mr Robinson became chair-

man of the enlarged group and its principal shareholder with 28.1 per cent of the shares, a holding now valued at about £30m.

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Biotech firms lobby for genetic crop site secrecy

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

BIOTECHNOLOGY companies are stepping up their efforts to persuade the Government to keep secret the locations of experiments with genetically-modified (GM) crops to prevent attacks by protesters.

Ministers now face intense lobbying from the 15 multinational companies running GM crop trials in the UK. The companies say that because the Government publishes the precise map location of the sites - often on privately-owned farms - they cannot guarantee their security.

Data about the sites' location is held publicly, and the Department of the Environment, which

"This isn't like the anti-roads campaign, which alienated a lot of people," said Martin Shaw of Genetix Snowball, which is co-ordinating the protests.

The protesters' fears centre on the possibility that genes added to the crops could spread by pollination to other wild plants and create "super-weeds" that would be impossible to eliminate. Genetix Snowball is calling for a five-year moratorium on the planting of GM crops.

However, the biotechnology companies are hopeful that the Government will start siding with them.

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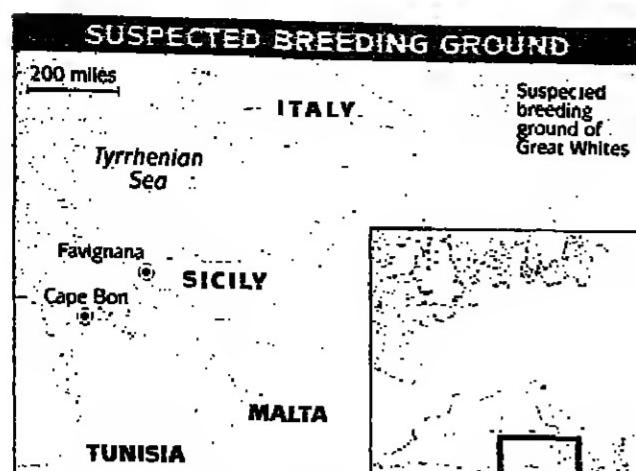
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Hunt for the Mediterranean's Jaws



BRITISH HOLIDAYMAKERS venturing this summer to southern Italy, Sicily and Malta are being asked to keep a lookout for great white sharks.

Marine scientists are increasingly aware that the world's biggest predatory fish, the monster of *Jaws*, has a resident population in the Mediterranean and this year they are making a special effort to gather more data on it.

The aim, ironically, is not the safety of human swimmers, but that of the great whites.

Carcharodon Carcharias might reach more than 20ft long and weigh over two tons, but it is already a rarity, increasingly threatened by commercial fishermen and loss of its own habitual prey species, such as bluefin tuna.

The Shark Trust, a British wildlife charity, is co-operating with Italy's marine research institute, Icram, to try to document every capture this summer of great whites in the Mediterranean.

Holidaymakers as well as fishermen, divers and boat users are being asked to keep their eyes open, particularly for the crowds that gather around the quaysides of small fishing ports if large sharks are brought in by the boats.

This year's project comes after several years' research by British marine biologist Ian Fergusson, the chairman of the Shark Trust, which has established much more firmly the knowledge of great whites in the Mediterranean - a fish usually associated with the coasts of Australia, South Africa and the United States.

"We think the population is more substantial than has previously been suspected," said Mr Fergusson. "But they're such elusive fish that despite the fact they're so spectacular when you see them up close, they're virtually impossible to count."

He went on: "I hope people will see great whites, irrespective of their 'maneater' tag, as being a wildlife treasure in the Mediterranean. To lose them would be to rob this sea of yet more mystique and natural character."

"Because they're top predators, at the top of the food

chain they're a barometer of the sea's health. We're not trying to kid anyone that they're cuddly."

"Certainly they're dangerous. But try to put it into perspective: many more people get run over by speedboats than attacked by white sharks."

"More people get killed by elephants than are killed by white sharks, and we are happy to see the conservation of elephants as important. In practical terms, there is no danger."

The Shark Trust keeps the Mediterranean figures for an International Shark Attack File.

Records show that there have been 63 attacks on people in the Mediterranean since 1900, with 21 fatalities.

The largest number of attacks - 34 - occurred off the coasts of Italy and Sicily. Great whites are suspected in more than 90 per cent of cases because it is the only one of the 43 shark species in the Mediterranean which is known to attack humans regularly.

A British naval instructor, Jack Smedley, was taken and eaten by a great white in July 1956 while swimming in St Thomas' Bay, Malta, with a young Maltese friend who survived to tell the tale.

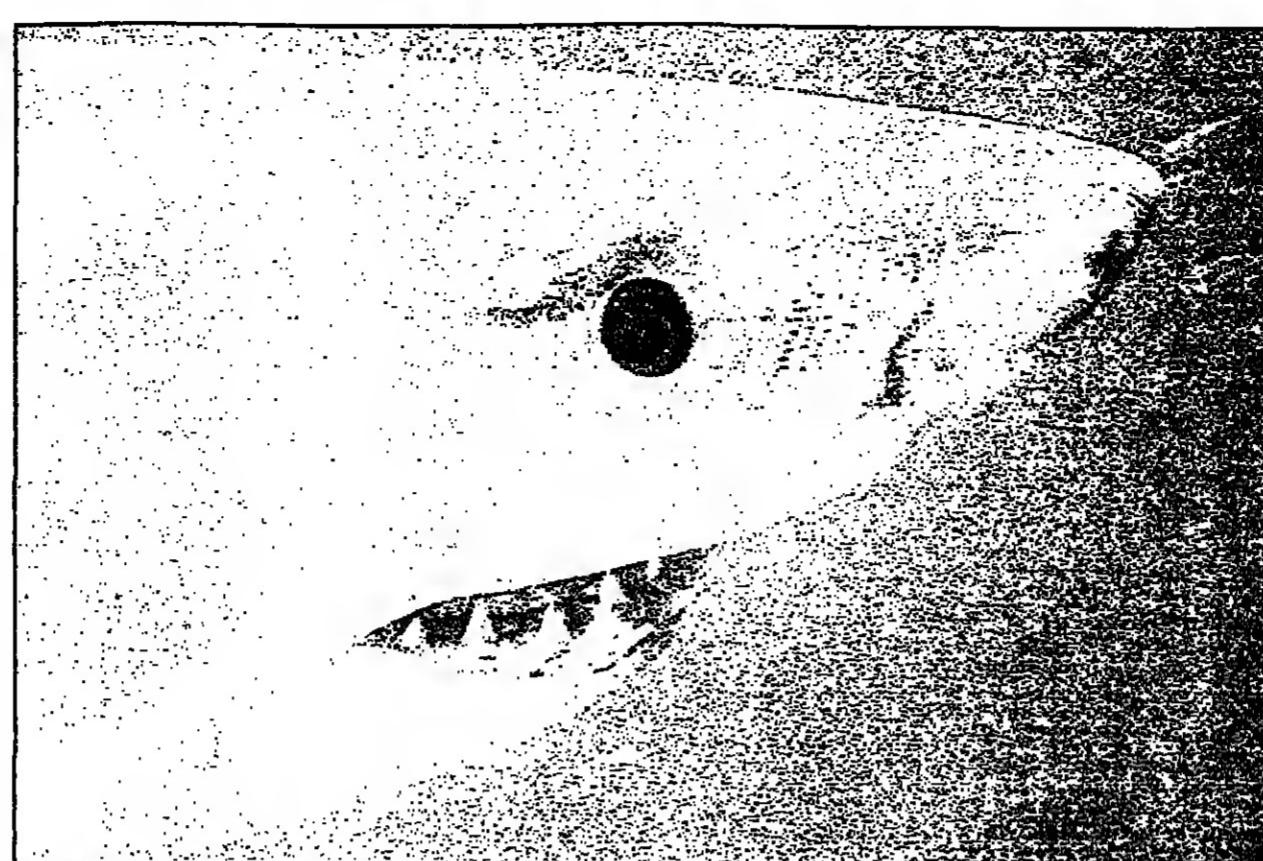
The last fatality was an Italian scuba diver off the coast of Tuscany in February 1989; his air tanks, belt and a single flipper were found, bearing the teeth marks of the great white.

Mr Fergusson thinks he has identified their breeding grounds: in the Sicilian Channel, around a triangle of sea formed by Cap Bon in Tunisia, the island of Favignana at the west of Sicily, and Malta.

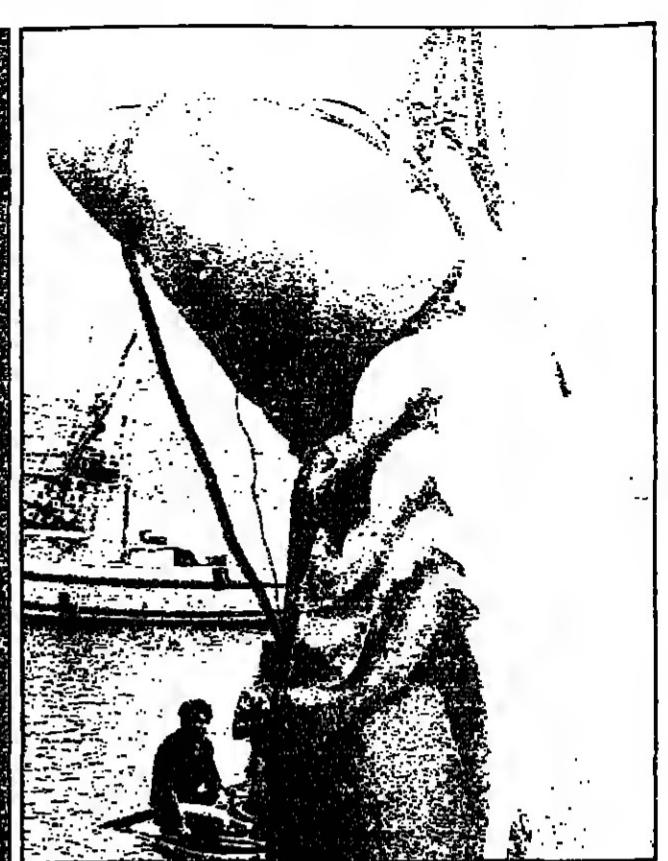
In 1987 a female great white was brought ashore at Malta and at 23ft long, is believed to have been the largest caught anywhere in the world.

Any information about the capture of great white sharks in the Mediterranean should be given to The Shark Trust on 01635 51150. In Italy contact Icram (Istituto Centrale per la Ricerca Applicata al Mare) on (06) 61570412.

Leading article,
Review page 3



The great white shark, 'a wildlife treasure in the Med', and, right, the 23ft female brought ashore off Malta and believed to be the largest caught anywhere *Planet Earth*



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Liberty in turmoil: Regent Street store makes new bid to turn the tide as family firm is left lagging by rivals

Soap opera decline of a legendary retail name

IT MAY have 125 years of retail history behind it but Liberty, the Regent Street retailer, has never seen tougher times.

Last week, the company reported an £11.5m loss caused by the cost of redevelopment work and a small trading deficit. The news pushed Liberty's shares down to an 11-year low and in stock market terms the company is now so small that City analysts no longer bother covering it.

Just before Christmas, the founding Stewart-Liberty company ousted the entire executive board after a bitter row about management's plans to spend £43m on refurbishing the Regent Street site.

Riven by management disputes, struggling with an ageing building, overtaken by rivals, Liberty is a business with a famous past but an uncertain future. It is a sad decline for one of the UK's great retail names.

How did this happen? How did a prestigious name, which was a byword for style and elegance, fall on such hard times? How does a store sit on one of Britain's busiest shopping thoroughfares, lose money?

"It is total family interference and total under-investment," says one City analyst. "The shop is more sprawling than Hampton Court maze. It is very hard to find your way around. And it faces increasingly improved competition. Harvey Nichols has been reborn. Dickins & Jones has had a fortune spent on it and Selfridges is being upgraded. The world has moved on while Liberty has stood still."

The Stewart-Liberty family has certainly played a central part in the soap opera that the company's affairs have become. The various branches of the family still hold a near 30 per cent interest. The family's financial representative

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

sits on the board and Elizabeth Stewart-Liberty, the matriarch, takes a keen interest in the group's performance.

But in recent times the family has

found itself involved in vicious spats with their chosen managers. In

1995, the family recruited an outsider to run the business. Denis Cassidy, formerly of the Boddington leisure group, joined wanting to

modernise the business. Pushed

along by critical shareholders,

Liberty appointed non-executive

directors and revised its old-fash-

ioned shareholding structure. But

Mr Cassidy went further. He eased

two family members off the board,

closed the provincial stores which

had proved a failure, and hatched

plans to spend £43m on updating the

flagship store.

It proved the origin of a war. Keen to reassess its authority the family teamed up with another dissident shareholder to oust Mr Cassidy and throw out his refurbishment plans which they said were too expensive.

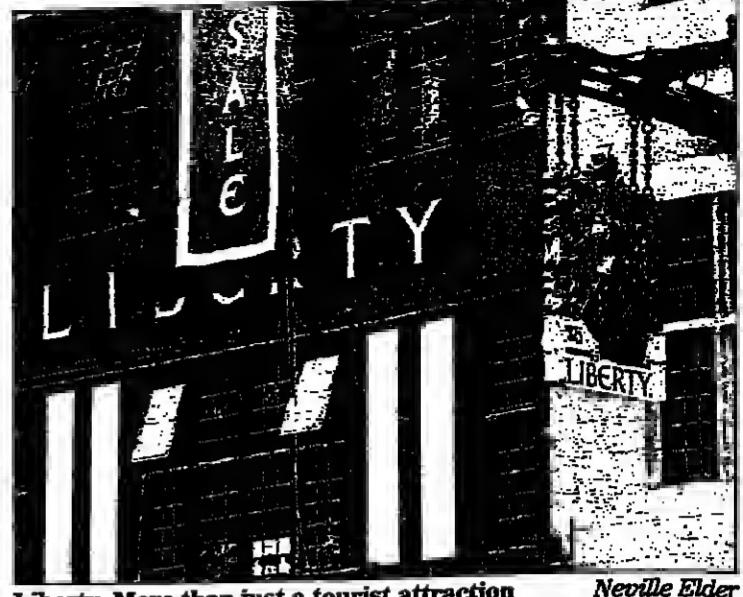
The issue came to a head at a dramatic meeting just before Christmas. Mr Cassidy lost and stepped down. The rest of the executive board followed suit. Then all the company's bankers and stockbrokers, financial advisers and lawyers resigned in protest. Liberty was left rudderless as the shop's performance deteriorated.

What next? Liberty has new management, appointed with the backing of the family and is working on plans to refinance the business and reduce costs. They will

redevelop the store but with a far lower budget than £43m. Some see this as the company's last chance to succeed without surrendering its independence and the family losing control.



A wedding dress by Vivienne Westwood for Liberty, a store with a 125-year history Herbie Knott



Liberty: More than just a tourist attraction Neville Elder

Rickety landmark fails to capitalise on unique appeal

BY TAMIN BLANCHARD
Fashion Editor

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN, Hussein Chalayan, Shelley Fox and Seraf - to name but a few to whom Liberty has given a golden opportunity.

The buyers are not afraid to take a chance if they believe in a collection. There are also the avant-garde Japanese and Belgian designers whose clothes look strangely at home hanging on the rails there.

Liberty caters to independent spirits and bohemians as well as tourists - the sort of people who like the fact that the floors creak and that there is not an inch of shiny chrome or minimal steel in sight.

Shoppers are guaranteed that they will find something new, something personal, something that is not necessarily mass-produced.

On a high street that is increasingly bland and sterile, the store's eclectic mix is rare - a unique selling point that has been central to the Liberty ethic for over a hundred years, but is not exploited to its full potential.

For this summer's advertising images, Liberty chose the fashion editor and champion of new talent, Isabella Blow, to model. They chose Blow because she epitomises the modern face of Liberty - a free spirit and a grand old English eccentric.

Mersey brothers build a fortune out of shoe shop

BY TAMIN BLANCHARD

TWO MERSEYSIDE brothers, and their "secret weapon", are set to turn over a staggering £250 million annually by 2003, just 16 years after one of them opened a small shoe shop in Liverpool.

But, in 1983, Robert Wade Smith jacked in his small business selling trainers, and opened a new store in Liverpool's town centre with two floors of sportswear, branded menswear and a smattering of womenswear. He had started his own sports shoe business in 1982 with the help of a £10,000 overdraft. It was a runaway success, and he expanded to ten shops across the north-west.

Wade Smith was an altogether more ambitious project. Situated on Mathew Street, it was one of the first shops to sell designer children's wear.

Last week the business was sold to Arcadia, the retail group

that owns Burton, Top Shop, and Dorothy Perkins, for £17.3 million. According to Robert Wade Smith, who remains managing director, the company aims to be turning over £250 million in the next five years.

For John Hoerner, chief executive of Arcadia, the jewel in the Wade Smith crown is the JN's concept. He plans to expand Wade Smith JN to about 30 stores nationwide by 2003. Children, it seems, have a voracious appetite for brand names and designer labels, from Paul Smith and Calvin Klein to Adidas. And, so far, designer childrenswear is a market untapped by the mighty mass market Arcadia group.

Wade Smith and his brother, David, who works with him as retail operations director, have the Midas touch. Ironically, David's previous experience involved ten years working for the Burton Group.

The brothers have a knack: they know what people want and give it to them with perfect timing. Their "secret weapon" is buying and merchandising director Chris Lee's eye for clothes with both a certain cachet and serious commercial appeal.

Wade Smith has widespread appeal - from business men and women, to local football heroes and teenagers who spend all their money on designer clothes for a Saturday night out.

The retailer has transformed and outgrown - the Mersey fashion scene with its policy of continual improvement.

Now Wade Smith is ready to take on the rest of the country.

Johnny Speight, creator of Alf Garnett, dies aged 78

BY JANINE GIBSON
Media Correspondent

ONE OF the most admired comedy writers in television history, Johnny Speight, died yesterday at the age of 78 after a short illness.

Mr Speight, the creator of Alf Garnett, had been suffering from cancer of the pancreas. The life-long socialist was with his family at his home in Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, when he died early yesterday morning.

Speight was best known for his BBC 1 sitcom, *Till Death Us Do Part*, featuring Garnett. The series, which first appeared on our screens in 1964, and its sequel, *In Sickness and in Health*, have become comedy classics.

Sitcom's most controversial character, Garnett was brought to life by Warren Mitchell who has always maintained he wanted

to play him as soon as he read *Till Death Us Do Part*'s opening line, "That bloody Big Ben, fast again." Mr Mitchell said: "It was perfect, it sums up Alf's pig-headed approach to life: 'the world is wrong, I am right.'

Tributes were led by BBC controller of entertainment, Paul Jackson, who said: "There are very few writers who can claim to have created a character who embodied a spirit of a generation. Johnny Speight did this with Alf Garnett."

Speight once admitted in an interview that there was something of himself in Alf Garnett. He said he had a sneaking admiration for Stalin, was suspicious of the EU, and confessed: "I don't like anywhere where English isn't spoken. It's Babylon out there."



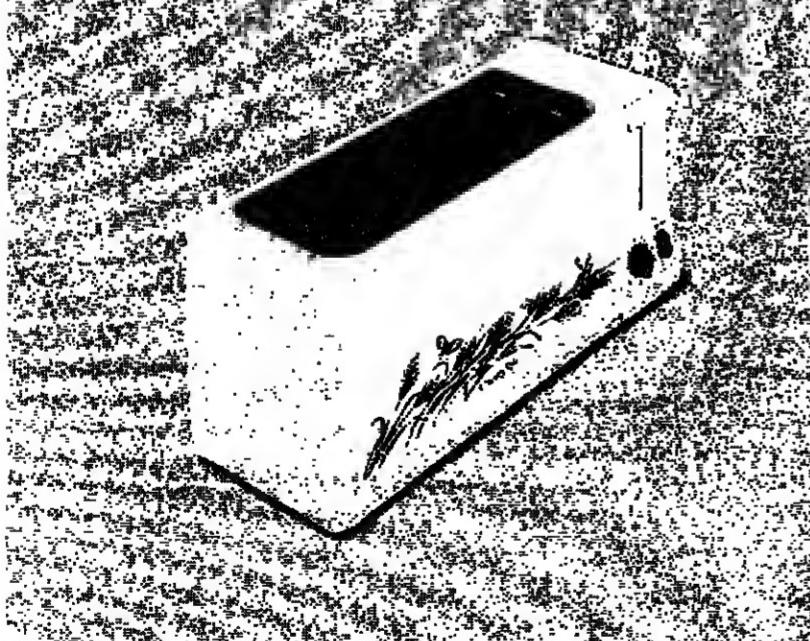
Johnny Speight: A bit of Alf Garnett in me'

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Taliban force aid agencies into front line

landmark capitalise ue appeal

FOREIGN AID agencies are threatening to leave war-torn Afghanistan following a new ultimatum from the Taliban authorities ordering international staff in Kabul to move to a bombed-out building on the outskirts of the city. The location is close to the front line where government troops are fighting opposition forces and is in the line of fire of incoming rockets.

The crisis follows close on the heels of a ban on foreign aid to education projects in the Afghan capital and further restrictions on local women's access to health care.

Marcus Thompson, Oxfam's representative in Kabul, said: "We'd be a sitting target if we all stayed in the same place. The building has no water supply or windows and would take months to rehabilitate. In any case we don't have the funds for such a move."

British charities such as Oxfam, Care and the Halo Trust are among more than 20 foreign organisations who are refusing to comply with this week's edict. It was issued by the main Taliban leader in Kabul, Mullah Rabbani, President of the Acting Council of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

A UN spokesman in Afghanistan, Sarah Russell, said: "This latest move will make life for aid workers even more difficult. Conditions for operating are already among the most difficult and this could be the last straw."

"If there is a pullout, and operations are suspended, half the population of Kabul which depends on aid will suffer and some will die."

The latest move is linked to the tensions between the authorities and aid agencies over access to education and health facilities for girls and women. It violates an agreement reached between the Taliban religious leadership and the UN last month, promising talks on "problem areas", specifically access to education and health care for women and girls.

Since the Taliban captured Kabul almost two years ago, girls have been banned from state schools and university, and female teachers are no

BY SALLY RAMSDEN
in Peswar

longer allowed to work in the capital. Afghan women are permitted to work in hospitals, subject to strictly segregated conditions.

Another edict, prohibiting all foreign involvement in education, including teaching girls, the three Rs at home, was issued recently by the spiritual leader of the Taliban, Omar Mukhtar, "Prince of the Faithful". Aid agencies regarded this as



The Taliban militiaman backs the latest ultimatum

particularly worrying because of his overall authority in the three-quarters of Afghanistan now controlled by the Taliban.

Aid agencies believe the current clampdown is a reaction to the way they have been flouting the ban on employing women. Foreign organisations have been passing off local female staff as health workers and paying salaries for some women teachers working in the unregistered home-based schools as well as providing blackboards, chalk and learning materials.

In June, the hard-line Minister for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, Mawlawi Qalamuddin, ordered the closure of all home-based schools for girls in Kabul, sending the Religious Police to carry out house-to-house searches across the city.

The authorities have until recently turned a blind eye to schools based in private homes where women trained as teachers under the previous Com-

munist regime, but officially banned from the classroom by the Taliban, teach basic reading, writing and numeracy skills for girls.

A senior Taliban representative in the region, Hakin Mujahed told The Independent: "The real problem is that foreign agencies can't accept our strict rules and regulations."

"These schools were operating illegally and in secret, moving to different locations every few days. This alerted us and made us very suspicious about their activities."

He said that the Taliban were unhappy about single, foreign aid workers living in large houses with many windows in residential "family areas", where they could see into the homes of local people and be seen.

"We ordered them to black out their windows at night but it is not enough and they must now move to a non-residential district in order to protect our families."

The fear is that the latest clampdown in Kabul may have a knock-on effect, leading to further restrictions on aid operations elsewhere. Aid agency officials anticipate that this will lead to a further deterioration in the situation of girls and women in the country.

A report just published by Unicef and the Save the Children Alliance said one in four children die before they reach the age of five, 50 per cent from preventable diseases; more mothers die in childbirth than in any other country and the literacy rate for women is the lowest in the world. Afghanistan ranks bottom of the 130 countries in the UNDP Gender Development Index.

Oxfam has already been forced to suspend its public health and disability work in Kabul because of the restrictions on female employment, although it continues to support water and rural development projects elsewhere in Afghanistan.

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Marcus Thompson of Oxfam said: "Kabul has become a battleground between the Taliban's very clear view that a woman must remain confined to home and our belief that everyone has the right to access the same services."



A firefighter confronted by a wall of flames tries to extinguish a forest fire blazing in Varibobi, near Athens, yesterday Yiorgos Karahalis

Unchecked fires devastate swathes of Italy and Greece

FIRE FANNED by strong winds raged through the Mediterranean yesterday, destroying thousands of acres of forest in Cyprus, Greece, Italy and Sardinia.

In the Calabrian region of southern Italy massive blazes - many of which were apparently started deliberately - burned unchecked as the civil protection department's fire-fighting planes remained on runways without the official permits needed for take-off, and gale-force winds grounded special helicopters.

Dozens of patients were evacuated from a hospital in Milletto when flames threatened the building, while smoke drifting across the Palermo-Trapani motorway caused a pile-up in which one man died. Firemen battled throughout the weekend to keep a blaze away from oil wells near the city of Siracusa.

In Sardinia, local MPs described fire-fighting equipment as "antiquated and insufficient" for the blazes which recur

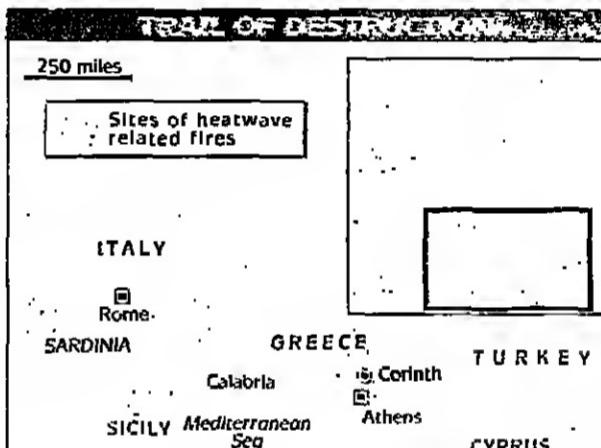
BY ANNE HANLEY
in Rome

weekend and the regional government has declared it a natural disaster area.

As blazes swept along the island's northern and eastern coasts, emergency switchboards were jammed with notifications of more than 300 separate blazes.

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each summer, and tourists stranded on the island's beaches had to be rescued by boat when bush fires cut off approach roads.

Officials in Calabria blamed most of the fires on locals burning stubble, or destroying

scrub in an attempt to have agricultural properties re-zoned as building land. "The majority of fires in this country are set by arsonists," said civil protection department chief Franco Barberi.

Yesterday, after days of fury,

ous criticism, the civil protection department had its fleet of 10 Canadair fire-extinguishing planes in the air.

"It is absolutely unacceptable that, with thousands of fires burning all over the country, fire-fighting craft can sit on the tarmac because a stamp is missing," said Green MP Athos de Luca.

In Cyprus, several villages in the northern, Turkish-held part of the island were evacuated as a huge bush fire raged out of control in the west of the island. In Greece, hundreds of fire-fighters battled a large forest fire on Mount Parnitha, overlooking Athens, while about 180 other blazes were being fought.

At an emergency meeting yesterday, the Greek government said it would establish if the blazes had been started deliberately.

US pushes to unite Albanians in Kosovo

THE AMERICAN special envoy Richard Holbrooke and Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolai Afanasyevsky flew together to Serbia's war-torn Kosovo province yesterday to try to help the ethnic Albanians agree on forming a united front for peace talks.

"We're working with the Albanians to strengthen their cohesiveness for the negotiations," Mr Holbrooke said. "They're having a little bit of trouble getting their political act together."

Washington has been embarrassed by claims that it helped split Western mediation efforts in the crisis recently by opening talks with the armed militants of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). While the Europeans were concentrating on engaging Kosovo's non-violent pro-independence leader, Ibrahim Rugova.

The US envoy said the first observer patrol would include the Russian and British ambassadors to Belgrade and the American chargé d'affaires, Richard Miles.

The patrols will be implemented as part of a declaration agreed by Yugoslavia's President Slobodan Milosevic and Russia's President Boris Yeltsin last month. Under the deal, diplomats accredited in Yugoslavia will be allowed free movement in Kosovo.

Mr Rugova said the observers could help to restore peace. He urged "armed groups" and the Albanian local population to offer hospitality while the observers went about their work.

Mr Rugova broke off talks with the Serbian leadership in May after Serb attacks on alleged KLA centres sent thousands of civilians fleeing to Albania.

Mandela appoints first black Bank chief to avert rand crisis

BY MARY BRAID
in Johannesburg

vinced the uncertainty is exacerbating the currency crisis, which is linked to the turmoil in the world's emerging markets.

There has been no end of speculation about the currency's plunge at a time when economic indicators at home are not, in fact, that bad. The international financier George Soros has even been rumoured to be behind the rand's decline but he has denied any knowledge of speculation.

Though big business, led by Anglo American, Nedcor and Standard Bank, has welcomed Mr Mbeweni's appointment, the initial market response will almost certainly be negative, as it was when Trevor Manuel became the country's first black finance minister. Mr Mbeweni can take comfort that



Tito Mbeweni (right) and Chris Stals (left) Reuters

overcome the perception that he was essentially a political appointee who would not fight to preserve the independence of the Reserve Bank. The National Party expressed "great shock and surprise" at a move which it insisted marks the beginning of an onslaught against the Bank's autonomy.

A further fall in the rand today will add to the general gloom at home about its fortunes. But not everyone sees the trend as a disaster. Some economists believe the devaluation is necessary, and helps exports. To many whites it is simply confirmation that the country is going down the tube.

Mr Mbeweni acted over the weekend to reassure critics. He insisted that he would protect the Bank's independence. He said he would be "very quiet" during his apprenticeship.

Some economists said yesterday that he would have to

brush by his detractors. Now he will have to give up his ministerial portfolio in charge of labour and ANC positions to shadow Mr Stals for a year before taking over a degree in development economics does not convince everyone that he will emerge worthy of the post.

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Arafat funds his forgotten refugees

FIVE YEARS after he abandoned them to the misery and squalor of their refugee camps in Lebanon, Yasser Arafat has begun pouring money back into Palestinian organisations in Beirut, Sidon, Tripoli and Tyre.

More than £150,000 a month is estimated to be arriving in Lebanon from Mr Arafat's bank accounts to support women's groups and trade unions in the camps - and already some of his mutinous "Fatah" comrades have fallen back into line.

When Mr Arafat signed the Oslo agreement with Israel in 1993, the 400,000 Palestinians in Lebanon realised they had been betrayed by the man they had fought for during 16 years of civil war in the country.

Having been promised a "return" to their homes in Palestine - all within the frontiers of present-day Israel - the Oslo agreement consigned them to a paragraph on "final status" talks in 1999. Regarding Mr Arafat as a traitor, Palestinians

BY ROBERT FISK
in Beirut

in Lebanon sided with Syria's anti-Arafat policies - and found that Mr Arafat's bankrolling of Palestine Liberation Organisation groups here ceased.

"He forgot about us when he signed the Oslo agreement, but now that Oslo is dead he needs us again," a prominent Palestinian official in the Sabra and Chatila camp in Beirut said yesterday. "We know what is happening. We were abandoned by Arafat, but now he needs to play the refugee card. And already we can see his money coming back into Lebanon."

Asad Abdul-Rahman, the head of the Palestinian Authority's "refugee department" visited Lebanon just three months ago; the cheques began to arrive soon afterwards.

In the Rashidieh Palestinian camp, south of Tyre, PLO men

are trying to resurrect moribund Palestinian trade unions loyal to



Yasser Arafat: Showing remarkable generosity

demonstrators gathered to greet them at the international airport.

Mr Arafat's picture, long ago thrown away by the slum-dwellers of Bourj al-Barajneh, Ein el-Helwe, Baas, Nahr el-Bared and Badawi refugee camps, have been reprinted and can again be found on the walls of huts and shacks.

So how did Oslo's demise provoke such remarkable generosity from Mr Arafat? According to the coldest of Palestinian calculations - by one of his former acolytes in Beirut - Mr Arafat needs to play the "refugee card" now that his power is waning in negotiations with Israel and the United States. "Arafat lost the loyalty of his people here and in Syria and Jordan," he said.

"He thought he was powerful enough in the West Bank and Gaza. Now he has failed, he wants the power of the diaspora behind him again.

"Israel still wants to make a

peace deal with Lebanon. But if the almost half a million Palestinians in Lebanon do what Arafat says, then he will have to become part of any Israeli-Lebanese negotiations.

The same applies in other Arab countries. The Israelis might refuse to talk to him any more about the West Bank and Gaza. But if they want to deal with Lebanon, they will have to talk to Arafat again whether they like it or not - and he, of course, will have demands on the West Bank and Gaza."

Palestinians, both pro- and anti-Arafat factions, remain armed in the big refugee camps of Ein el-Helwe in Sidon and Bourj el-Shemali in Tyre, and the two camps north of Tripoli as well as Rashidieh.

While still under strong Syrian control, Palestinian officials, now calling themselves PLO rather than "Fatah", can

find common cause between themselves and Damascus now that Mr Arafat has realised

there are no further negotiations to be conducted with the Israelis. Mr Arafat's dollars help to oil the machinery of reconstruction.

New Palestinians in Lebanon can be under many illusions about the sort of loyalty Mr Arafat is going to show them. Almost all of them fled Palestine, or are the children or grandchildren of those who fled Palestine, in 1947 and 1948. Their villages, towns and cities are all in what became Israel.

They had clung on to the United Nations General Assembly's non-binding resolution 194, which gives them "the right of return" to their homes and lands, until the Oslo agreement, which effectively recognises the Israeli state and allows Israel to renegotiate withdrawal from those Arab lands it occupied in 1967.

Palestinians in Lebanon may dream of returning to Haifa, or Acre, or northern Galilee whence their families were driven into Lebanon 50 years ago, but Oslo effectively ensures their dreams will never be realised. Israel is not going to allow the 1948 diaspora to go home, even though the Palestinian families who left half a century ago still live in their camps - in streets named after their original home villages.

So why should they now support Mr Arafat again, the man who once told them that if they fought to the death against Israel's Christian allies in Lebanon, they would achieve their "return" to Palestine?

Compensation, in some form, is the most they were due to receive under the now dead Oslo agreement. Perhaps they accept Mr Arafat again because there is no other choice. Perhaps because the other Palestinian groups - the left-wing Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), for example - are still telling them Palestinians in Lebanon were still being paid from Mr Arafat's coffers. Now they are again. Plus ça change.

rect the mistakes of Oslo. The DFPLP's "central committee" has just held a conference announcing a new initiative: complete Israeli withdrawal to 1967 frontiers, abolition of Israel's annexation of Arab east Jerusalem, dismantlement and evacuation of all Jewish settlers from the West Bank and Gaza, independence of the West Bank and Gaza and the "right of return" to 1948 refugees to be honoured.

Such is the disillusion Palestinians feel towards the now-hurled "peace process" that the DFPLP initiative - unacceptable even to an Israeli Labour government, let alone to the present gentlemen from Likud - seems to contain its own logic. It is, in fact, little more than what was demanded by Mr Arafat before the PLO signed up to Oslo in 1993. In those days, of course, the Palestinians of Lebanon were still being paid off of Arab words, *ittihad* will continue.

Grozny hero's mystery murder

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

INTRIGUE OVER the murder of Lev Rokhlin, the prominent Russian general and opponent of Boris Yeltsin, is fast snowballing after members of his family and his political organisation claimed the police's prime suspect - his wife - is innocent.

The shooting of the 51-year-old general, found dead in bed at his country *dacha* last week, has caused shock and controversy in Moscow.

Regional police investigators have claimed the general's wife, Tamarra, 48, confessed to shooting him through the head as he lay sleeping after celebrating their son's 13th birthday.

The Federal Security Service immediately declared it was "utterly confident" that his murder was "in no way connected with his political activity". Media reports have suggested the general's wife had a drinking problem and suffered from depression.

But this weekend that version was publicly challenged by General Rokhlin's daughter, Elena, and his son-in-law, Sergei, who said the general's wife had called them after his body was discovered, complaining that she was under pressure to take responsibility.

"She said: 'I will take it all on myself, otherwise my daughter will die, you will die and Igor [General Rokhlin's son] will die,'" Sergei told NTV commercial television.

The police's position was also challenged by Alexander Morozov, deputy of the general's organisation, the Movement in Support of the Armed Forces. "The movement leadership is convinced that there are no reasons to suspect the general's wife," he said.

The claims are certain to be seized on by Russia's multitude of conspiracy theorists. The Russian nationalist leader, Vladimir Zhirinovsky, said the general died "because he knew too much about Chechnya". General Rokhlin led Moscow's capture of the Chechen capital, Grozny, in 1995.

The general quit the pro-government party Our Home is Russia in disgust over the Kremlin's attempts at military reform. He then set up his movement which concentrated on currying support within the ranks and was intended to pressure Boris Yeltsin to resign.



The Sultan of Brunei, left, and Prince Jefri at a polo match in England. The prince is a regular partner of Prince Charles Camera Press

Anger of playboy prince at business 'smears'

BY MARCUS TANNER

his admittedly lavish lifestyle. The source said the reason the prince's British suppliers had not been paid was not a result of his luxurious lifestyle or foolish investment in prestige projects, but because the Brunei government had progressively seized control of the prince's Brunei-based assets.

Last week the Brunei government announced it was taking over some of Amedeo's key projects, including a luxury hotel and power stations which it was building with the German industrial group Siemens.

Amedeo's travails are linked to the recession that has hit the whole of South-East Asia, and which has not spared Brunei, one of the world's richest nations.

Falling oil prices have struck at the source of the Sultan's wealth, as nearly all the country's income comes from oil fields.

"The prince's empire has not collapsed," the source said. "What is true is that his businesses in Brunei face difficulties because the government has seized most of them: that

is why he cannot pay people. He still has a big business interests outside Brunei which are unaffected in Europe and in the United States".

Friends of the prince say the Sultan has been alienated from his younger brother because he has been "got at" by hardline Muslims among his family and ministerial advisers.

"The religious conservatives have always hated him [the prince]," the source said. "They are using his business difficulties in Brunei to discredit him completely."

Between the factions at court and Mr Abbas's refusal to join the anti-prince campaign.

The extent of the conflict in the ruling family has led some observers to talk darkly of

coup and turmoil along the lines of events in Indonesia, where President Suharto was toppled after more than 30 years in power. That scenario may be unlikely.

But the furore over the prince and reports of splits in the Brunei royal family threatens to cast a pall over the visit to Brunei of the Queen and

Prince Philip, due to take place in September.

The prince, as well as the Sultan, has close ties to Britain. He was educated in Britain, at the self-consciously progressive St Alfred's school in north London. A penchant for polo

has made Prince Jefri a regular sports partner with the Prince of Wales. He has five houses in London alone.

It would scarcely be surprising if Prince Jefri's lifestyle had attracted the hostile notice of religious conservatives in his home country. Since leaving his

north London school, he has lived a jet-set life, he once hired Rod Stewart to play at one of his children's parties and owns a yacht called *Tits*.

Earlier this year he was the object of unwelcome publicity when two former business associates sued him for £250m, alleging they had procured gifts for him worth £500m over 14 years, including a single rug costing £5m. In court they alleged he had entertained prostitutes in his Park Lane flat.

The case was later settled out of court.

Hong Kong switches airports with night flight

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

OPERATION Nighthawk, one of the biggest ever peace-time logistical operations, roared into life last night as Hong Kong closed its city centre airport and opened the shiny new 260m international gateway at Chek Lap Kok.

From early evening, a convoy of more than 1,100 trucks, 14 barges and 30 aircraft began the massive task of moving essential equipment from the old airport to the new site.

Months of planning have been devoted to the task of opening the new airport within seven hours of the old one closing.

The lights at the old Kai

Tak airport were switched off during a small ceremony held at one o'clock this morning by Richard Siegel, Hong Kong's director of civil administration, one of the few remaining Britons to retain a senior position in the government. Two Cathay Pacific Airways jets were the last to depart Kai Tak, leaving for London and Paris at around midnight.

Kai Tak was the world's fourth largest airport and the last major international airport to be located in the heart of a city.

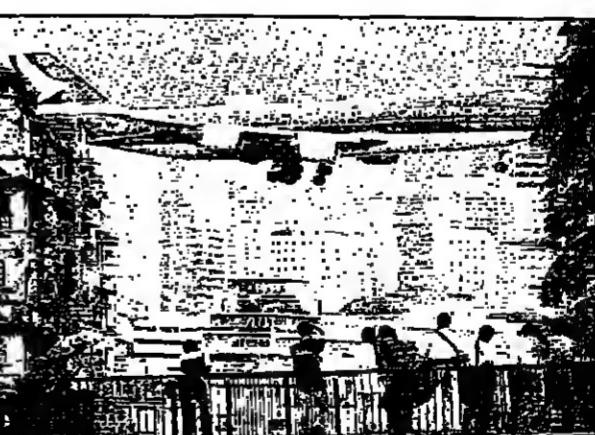
However it was unbeatable for sheer convenience and ex-

cellence for spectators viewing massive jumbo jets dipping over the adjacent Kowloon City.

The new airport, which was officially opened by Chinese President Jiang Zemin on 2 July, will be able to provide a 24-hour service because it is well away from the central urban area.

It has ambitions eventually to handle 87 million passengers per year although is unlikely to serve even half that number in its first year of operation.

Unfortunately, the new airport is opening alongside a slew of other new and extended airports throughout the region which will diminish its attraction as a regional hub.

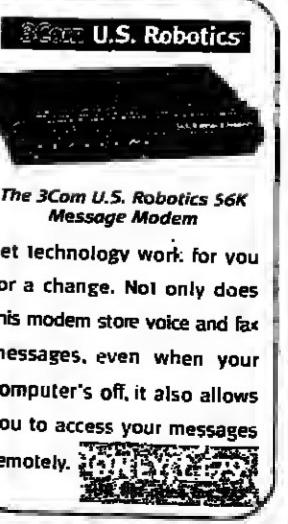


Sightseers watching one of the dramatic last take-offs amid the tower blocks from Kai Tak Larry Chan

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ugees

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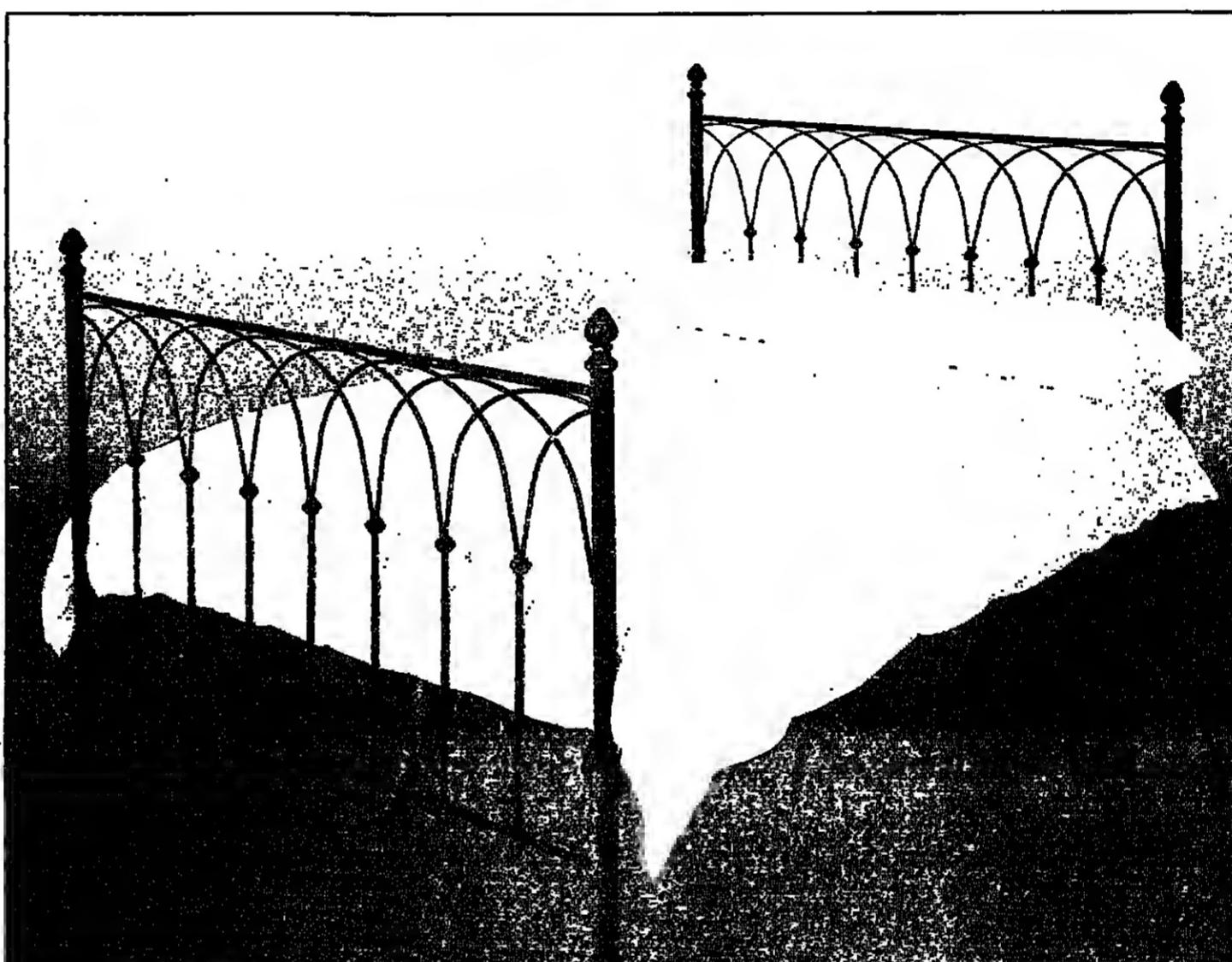
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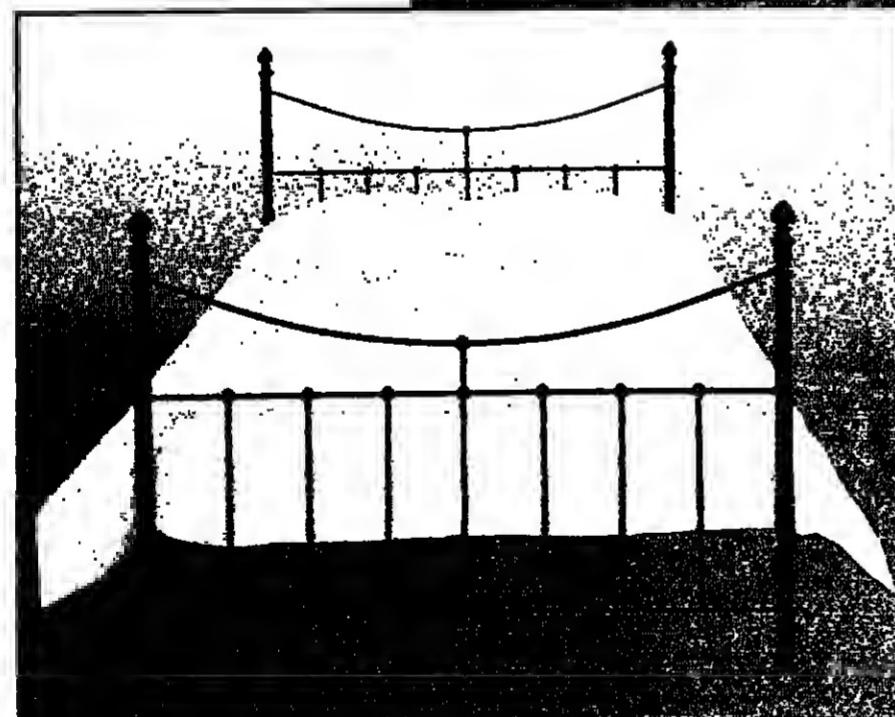
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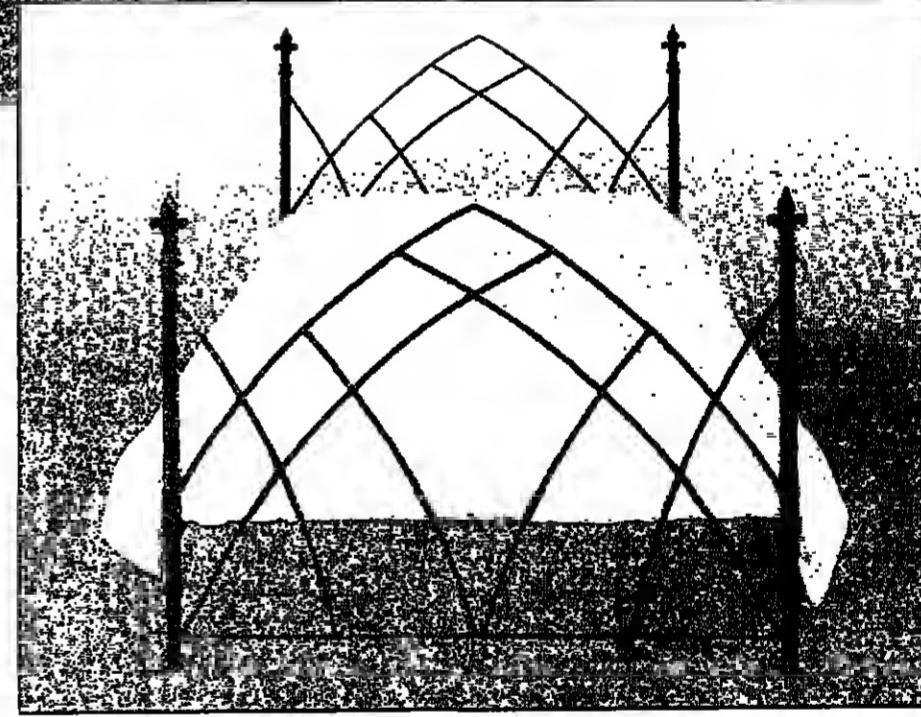
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At last - Mrs Chui learns to serve with a smile

STREET LIFE

HONG KONG

WHAT'S GOT into Mrs Chui? Frankly, she is a transformed person. I've known her - well, been vaguely acquainted with her - for some time. We tend to meet once a week on either side of a supermarket checkout counter in Sai Kung.

For years Mrs Chui has performed her duties without a smile, yet with a certain degree of brisk efficiency which helped the goods pass smoothly down the shiny counter. But recently Mrs Chui has taken to smiling and enquiring about the state of my health. There was even a recent suggestion that I might like to have a nice day.

That is fairly astonishing, but there is more. She meticulously sorts my goods into various categories and neatly stuffs them into plastic bags. Previously I was always left to perform this task myself after having been thrown a handful of carriers.

So, what's going on? Is this transformation a special Mrs Chui sort of thing or are there many Mrs Chuis all over Hong Kong? A straw poll reveals that the miracle of Mrs Chui has indeed been replicated on a territory-wide basis.

The supermarket bosses have told their staff that times are hard

and if they want to keep their jobs they had better start being a lot nicer to that formerly despised group of people known as customers.

On investigation I discovered this edict was not restricted to the bosses of the two main supermarket chains which have a virtual duopoly of this business. (Both trade under false pretenses. One chain is called Park N'Shop, though none of its outlets have parking facilities. The other is called Wellcome (sic), which was a poor joke given the kind of welcome most customers received).

With the economy sliding into recession, unemployment mushrooming and money being generally as tight as a barrel, shop owners, restaurateurs, even Hong Kong's notoriously arrogant hotel bosses are having to square up to the need for real customer service.

When Hong Kong's economy was still booming, just a year ago it seemed longer, the so-called service industry was not famous for allegedly for sale.

When Hong Kong people really

make an effort to do something they tend to do it pretty well. This must be what is meant by Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's Chief Executive, who keeps going around telling everyone this place is going to emerge much stronger from the economic downturn.

ONE OF the great ritual humiliations which Hong Kong people love to inflict on foreign visitors is the great chopsticks test. As many a first time visitor to a Chinese or Japanese restaurant has discovered, success is far from guaranteed.

It was therefore with considerable interest that the chopstick skills of the president of the most powerful nation on earth were followed by the Hong Kong public. Bill Clinton, who was here last week, after eight days of intensive training in China, passed with flying colours.

Naturally sniffer dogs preceded the Clintons visit to the restaurant, but the American President, unlike a former Australian foreign minister, was wise enough not to crack any jokes about the Chinese taste for man's best friend.

STEPHEN VINES



In Hong Kong, the customer has never been right - until now

James Barr

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IN BRIEF

Algeria imposes Arabic tongue

ALGERIA BEGAN enforcing a new law yesterday making Arabic compulsory for all official business, despite protests from the country's Berber minority. Hundreds of Berber activists took to the streets of Algiers to denounce the Arabisation policy announced on the 36th anniversary of Algeria's independence from France.

Rebels battle for African capital

PRO-GOVERNMENT and rebel forces exchanged fire, and a column of smoke hung over the Guinea-Bissau capital in some of the fiercest fighting since a military revolt broke out four weeks ago. Portuguese media said.

And Berat begat 15 Ronaldos

AT LEAST 15 boys born during the last two weeks in the southern Albanian town of Berat have been named after the Brazilian football star Ronaldo. The name has gripped the ancient town of 20,000, with youths wearing Ronaldo shirts and shaving their heads to imitate their idol.

HUNTER DAVIES

'We didn't have a roast, being too poor, but mince and tatties were a bit thicker on Sunday. Carving was the only problem'

— THE MONDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

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BUSINESS

'Mini-recession' warning as service exports slump

BRIEFING

Nomura eyes Japanese property

NOMURA INTERNATIONAL, the Japanese investment bank which has pulled off a string of securitisation deals in the last three years, is interested in investing in Japanese properties. Guy Hands, head of Nomura's principal finance group, told a Japanese newspaper that selling properties would help the government raise money to boost the economy and repay debt. Nomura paid £980m for Thorn, the struggling Radio Rentals group, last week. Mr Hands has said that as opportunities become scarcer in Britain Nomura will look to other markets such as Germany and Japan.

Rand set for further battering

SPECULATORS ARE expected to use the appointment of South Africa's first black central bank governor as another excuse to batter the rand, but economists believe the decision is a bold move that will bear dividends in the long run. Tito Mboweni, labour minister (left), was named on Saturday as the successor to Chris Stals, who is to retire in August next year. Rumours last week that the ambitious young minister was in the running for the job were blamed for additional selling against the rand. The currency slumped to a low of 6.43 against the US dollar on Friday, down from 5.08 in late May.

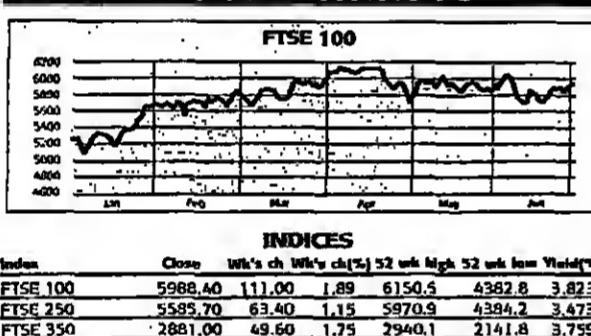
More firms in intensive care

THERE HAS been a "significant rise" in the number of companies being referred to the intensive care departments of the leading banks in the last few months fuelling fears that the economy may be drifting towards recession. Leading corporate recovery specialists say their intensive care units, which banks use to monitor overstretched companies, are busier than the first quarter of the year.

Chiroscience sued over options

A COURT CASE is due to start in the High Court today between Chiroscience, the biotechnology company and Nowell Stebbing, its former chief executive. Mr Stebbing, who left the company in August 1995, is suing Cambridge-based Chiroscience for the wrongful removal of share options worth between £3.5m and £5.5m. At the time of his departure he was deputy chairman.

STOCK MARKETS



INDICES	Close	Wk ch.	Wk% ch.	32 wk hgt.	32 wk lwr.	Yield %
FTSE 100	5,000.40	111.00	1.8%	6,150.5	4,923.6	3.42%
FTSE 250	5,582.70	63.40	1.1%	5,970.9	4,386.2	3.47%
FTSE 350	3,981.20	-69.50	-1.7%	3,940.1	3,141.8	3.47%
FTSE All Share	2,806.57	44.57	1.6%	2,872.04	2,105.59	3.72%
FTSE SmallCap	3,504.50	-16.30	-0.5%	3,793.8	3,182.1	3.19%
FTSE Financials	14,242.90	-3.70	-0.2%	15,171.1	12,252.5	3.21%
FTSE AIM	10,927.00	-3.70	-0.3%	11,146.9	9,965.9	1.15%
FTSE EBLOC 100	10,734.64	-	-	-	-	-

INTEREST RATES	UK INTEREST RATES	US INTEREST RATES
7.50	7.00	5.50
7.00	6.50	5.00
6.50	6.00	4.50
6.00	5.50	4.00
5.50	5.00	3.50
5.00	4.50	3.00
4.50	4.00	2.50
4.00	3.50	2.00
3.50	3.00	1.50
3.00	2.50	1.00
2.50	2.00	0.50
2.00	1.50	0.00
1.50	1.00	-0.50
1.00	0.50	-1.00
0.50	0.00	-1.50

MONEY MARKET RATES	UK INTEREST RATES	US INTEREST RATES
7.50	7.00	5.50
7.00	6.50	5.00
6.50	6.00	4.50
6.00	5.50	4.00
5.50	5.00	3.50
5.00	4.50	3.00
4.50	4.00	2.50
4.00	3.50	2.00
3.50	3.00	1.50
3.00	2.50	1.00
2.50	2.00	0.50
2.00	1.50	0.00
1.50	1.00	-0.50
1.00	0.50	-1.00
0.50	0.00	-1.50

CURRENCIES	E/\$	E/DM
1.72	3.10	2.10
1.68	3.05	2.05
1.64	3.00	2.00
1.60	2.95	1.95
1.56	2.90	1.90
1.52	2.85	1.85
1.48	2.80	1.80
1.44	2.75	1.75
1.40	2.70	1.70
1.36	2.65	1.65
1.32	2.60	1.60
1.28	2.55	1.55
1.24	2.50	1.50
1.20	2.45	1.45
1.16	2.40	1.40
1.12	2.35	1.35
1.08	2.30	1.30
1.04	2.25	1.25
1.00	2.20	1.20
0.96	2.15	1.15
0.92	2.10	1.10
0.88	2.05	1.05
0.84	2.00	1.00
0.80	1.95	0.95
0.76	1.90	0.90
0.72	1.85	0.85
0.68	1.80	0.80
0.64	1.75	0.75
0.60	1.70	0.70
0.56	1.65	0.65
0.52	1.60	0.60
0.48	1.55	0.55
0.44	1.50	0.50
0.40	1.45	0.45
0.36	1.40	0.40
0.32	1.35	0.35
0.28	1.30	0.30
0.24	1.25	0.25
0.20	1.20	0.20
0.16	1.15	0.15
0.12	1.10	0.10
0.08	1.05	0.05
0.04	1.00	0.00

OTHER INDICATORS	POUND	DOLLAR
Friday	1.6477	-1.311
Wednesday	1.6533	-0.50
Tuesday	1.6533	-0.50
Monday	1.6533	-0.50
Sunday	1.6533	-0.50
Saturday	1.6533	-0.50
Friday	1.6533	-0.50
Wednesday	1.6533	-0.50
Tuesday	1.6533	-0.50
Monday	1.6533	-0.50
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Sunday	1.6533	-0.50
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Monday	1.6533	-0.50
Sunday	1.6533	-0.50
Friday	1.6533	-0.50
Wednesday	1.6533	-0.50
Tuesday	1.6533	-0.50
Monday	1.6533	-0.50
Saturday	1.6533	-0.50
Friday	1.6533	-0.50
Wednesday	1.6533	-0.50
Tuesday	1.6533	-0.50
Monday	1.6533	-0.50
Sunday	1.6533	-0.50
Friday	1.6533	-0.50
Wednesday	1.6533	-0.50
Tuesday	1.6533	-0.50
Monday	1.6533	-0.50
Saturday	1.6533	-0.50
Friday	1.6533	-0.50
Wednesday	1.6533	-0.50
Tuesday	1.6533	-0.50
Monday	1.6533	-0.50
Sunday	1.6533	-0.50
Friday	1.6533	-0.50
Wednesday	1.6533	-0.50
Tuesday	1.65	



Sec	Stock	Price	Wkdg	Yd	PE	Code	Ex	Stock	Price	Wkdg	Yd	PE	Code	Ex	Stock	Price	Wkdg	Yd	PE	Code	
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES 0.1424																					
2891	Midland Distillers	574	8.8	48	14.5	1899		21	Denmark Ex	128	1.5	32	5.7	2507	1171p	492	21.2	1.5	153	7614	
184	Budweiser (P)	348	-1.5	34	17.0	1125		31	Heublein	229	5.0	12	18.0	7894	150	150	2.5	4.8	9.1	1420	
1	Burns & Root	15	-2.5	44	-4.4	4922		22	Heublein	229	5.0	12	18.0	7894	150	150	2.5	4.8	9.1	1420	
23847	Heublein	728	24.5	45	30.9	992		23	Heublein	229	5.0	12	18.0	7894	150	150	2.5	4.8	9.1	1420	
141	Heublein	580	-0.5	20	20.0	2769		24	Heublein	152	-1.5	7.5	7.7	2507	1171p	152	150	2.5	4.8	9.1	1420
13298	Heublein	580	-0.5	20	20.0	2769		25	Heublein	152	-1.5	7.5	7.7	2507	1171p	152	150	2.5	4.8	9.1	1420
128	Matthew Clark	193	-10.5	13.0	13.0	1259		26	Heublein	152	-1.5	7.5	7.7	2507	1171p	152	150	2.5	4.8	9.1	1420
BANKS 0.2151																					
15169	Ashurst Natl	108	21.0	3.8	18.8	2171		27	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
1114	ABN Amro	212	22.7	2.7	18.8	2171		28	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
10272	Bankers Trust	1778	-17.0	2.7	22.5	1994		29	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
2561	Bank of Ireland	1268	10.0	2.7	21.6	216		30	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
101	Bank of North	987	16.0	1.5	18.8	2171		31	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
13298	Bank of Scotland	1268	10.0	2.7	21.6	216		32	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust (P)	1571	40.4	4.8	15.8	3554		33	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
53	Bankers Trust	1405	4.0	4.8	11.9	3554		34	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
10272	Bankers Trust Up	1571	-7.0	2.7	14.5	3554		35	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
18657	Bankers Trust	1115	3.0	2.7	21.6	216		36	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
20292	Bankers Trust	520	-4.0	3.7	20.8	2865		37	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
20293	Bankers Trust	1024x	8.0	2.7	10.5	216		38	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
10272	Bankers Trust	982	11.0	2.5	12.1	216		39	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	433	-0.5	2.0	21.6	216		40	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	513	8.0	2.5	21.6	216		41	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216		42	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216		43	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216		44	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216		45	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216		46	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216		47	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216		48	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216		49	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216		50	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216		51	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216		52	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216		53	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216		54	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216		55	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216		56	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216		57	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216		58	Gendar Corp	202	-8.0	4.0	9.1	1787	229	165	1.5	12.0	27.0	620	
128	Bankers Trust	120	4.0	4.8	13.7	216	</														

Moving closer to the heart of Europe

ALTHOUGH THE United Kingdom will not participate in the launch of Europe's most ambitious project thus far, in many other respects it has been moving steadily closer to the heart of the European Union. Of course, economic integration has been increasing space for many decades, and long ago Europe displaced the United States and the Commonwealth as the UK's most important trading partner. But the tempo has picked up significantly over the past year as the election of a Labour government marked a sea change in both rhetoric and behaviour. UK institutional structures and political attitudes have changed, narrowing the remaining gap between the UK and the rest of the EU dramatically.

Two glaring divergences remain: the UK business cycle is significantly out of sync with the rest of the region, and UK public opinion does not look ready to take the next step of integration. Both of these are to a large extent in the Government's own hands. Once resolved, the UK will be well positioned to participate in European Monetary Union, and thus fulfil its potential as a fully fledged member of Europe.

The past year has seen extensive institutional change in the UK, covering the labour market, monetary policy and fiscal policy – which has moved the UK decisively in a European direction.

In the labour market, the new Government adopted the EU social chapter, which the previous administration had opted out of. In addition, the recent announcement of a minimum wage puts the UK in line with the rest of the region. Prior to this announcement, the UK was the only country in the EU which did not have some kind of floor on wages.



DAVID
MACKIE

Two big issues remain before the UK can participate in Emu: business cycle convergence and public approval

Within days of last year's election, the new Government gave the Bank of England operational independence. This ended 50 years of political control of monetary policy, and moved the UK much closer to the continental European model. While some striking differences remain between the Bank of England Act and the constitution of the European Central Bank, notably concerning openness and accountability, the main policy objective of sustained low inflation is now the same across the entire region.

The UK has adopted a rules-based fiscal framework, similar to the EU's Growth and Stability Pact. Although the precise medium-term objectives are different – the UK Code for Fiscal Stability

allows the Government to run a small budget deficit depending on the amount of capital spending, while the Growth and Stability Pact requires a balanced budget – both aim to consolidate the fiscal improvement seen in recent years.

Political developments have also moved the UK and the rest of the EU closer together. The EU's structure – involving institutions with supra-national authority and treaty-based arrangements for inter-governmental co-operation – has always created tension between those with federalist ambitions and those who support national sovereignty.

The Maastricht Treaty probably marked the high point of federalism in the EU, with the creation of the European Central Bank, the most powerful supranational institution in the region. Following that, the past couple of years have seen the gap between federalists and nationalists narrow. Other EU countries have backed off some of their federalist ambitions: both the Amsterdam Treaty and the recent Cardiff Summit suggest that a certain amount of integration fatigue has affected EU leaders. This, along with a more positive stance from the UK government, has brought the UK and the rest of the EU much closer together in political terms.

Significant steps have already been taken to move the UK towards the heart of Europe. But two big issues remain before the UK can participate in Emu: business cycle convergence and public approval.

cycle convergence and public approval. Given the UK's unpleasant experience as a member of the ERM, a greater degree of business cycle convergence is a pre-requisite for UK participation in EMU. Business cycle convergence means much more than simply the same rate of economic growth. It means the alignment of inflation pressures. Only then can the UK and the rest of the region enjoy the same level of interest rates.

At the moment the inflation pressures are wide apart. Unemployment in the UK is at a 20-year low, while in Europe it is close to a 50-year high. And if it hadn't been for sterling's sharp appreciation over the past two years, actual inflation in the UK would be even further above the European average than it is now. Although the Bank of England is not explicitly aiming for business cycle convergence with the rest of Europe, the pursuit of the inflation target will achieve this objective. The Bank of Eng-

land and the European Central Bank will both be aiming for a similar inflation rate, and over a three-to-four year horizon this should align inflation pressures.

But meeting the inflation target in the UK is likely to require a much sharper economic slowdown than most commentators, including the Bank of England, expect. The economy looks as overheated now as it has been at any point in the past 50 years. The inflationary consequences of this have been evident for a while. Demand-sensitive price inflation has picked up from 2.1 per cent to 4.8 per cent in the past two years, and private sector wage growth has picked up from 3.2 per cent to 6.1 per cent during the same period.

To unwind these domestic inflation pressures, the Bank of England needs to create some slack, which will involve a rise in the unemployment rate, an easing of skill shortages, and less intensive use of plant and machinery. The next few months

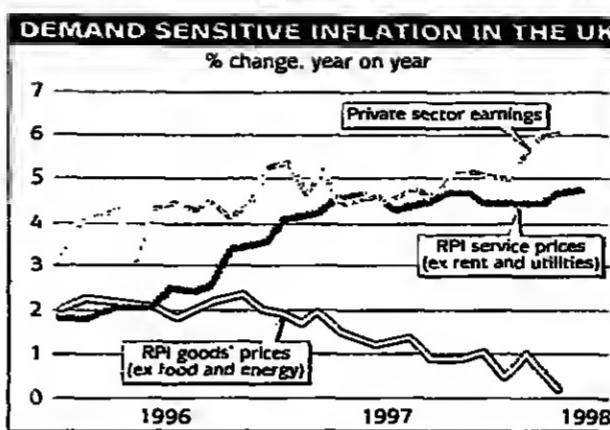
will be difficult ones for the central bank, because inflation will continue to rise even as growth slows. This is not stagflation, which is a sustained period of weak growth and high inflation. Rather it is the normal behaviour of any economy as it comes off a period of unsustainably strong growth. Typically, the peak in inflation occurs around two years after the peak in growth. Since growth peaked in the second half of last year, inflation is likely to continue climbing well into next year.

Unfortunately, the Bank of England is not expecting these late cycle inflation pressures. Indeed, in the early May Inflation Report, it argued that, apart from a tax-related dip in the second quarter of this year, growth and inflation both peaked together in the third quarter of last year.

The central bank's disappointment with the inflation profile should ensure that base rates move higher. This will add to the restraint that is already in the pipeline, and ensure that the economy continues to weaken into next year. Most likely, the economy will flirt with recession, with virtually stagnant output for two or three quarters. Although this is worse than most commentators, including the Bank of England, are expecting, it is probably necessary to ensure that the inflation target is hit. The Bank of England's success in meeting its mandate, along with the gradual maturing of the continental European business cycle, should ensure that inflation pressures align soon after the turn of the decade.

Business cycle convergence will occur thanks to actions the government has already taken – an independent central bank with an explicit inflation target. Achieving a popular mandate probably requires some further effort from the government. But its powers of persuasion should not be underestimated, and a "yes" vote in a referendum is surely achievable if the government puts its mind to it. If this paves the way for Emu entry early next decade, then the UK will truly be at the heart of Europe.

David Mackie is an economist at JP Morgan



Contract workers' rights warning

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

THE GOVERNMENT'S proposals on employment rights could have a "devastating" impact on businesses, especially those using contract workers, according to a leading law firm.

An unnoticed footnote in the recent "Fairness at Work" White Paper means that companies could find they were fully responsible for workers employed by outside firms, according to law firm Osborne Clarke.

Under present law, for example, a construction company that asks for an incompetent contract catering worker to be removed from its premises would not be liable for any unfair dismissal claim if the contractor went on to sack him.

Under the White Paper the construction company could be liable, according to Nick Moore, head of the employment law department at Osborne Clarke.

Mr Moore points out that a footnote in the first section of the paper: "The Way Ahead", extends the definition of "employee" to include "all those who work for someone else, regardless of whether or not they are strictly employed under a contract of employment".

Mr Moore said: "The implications of the footnote are concerning. It could radically transform the whole basis of UK employment protective legislation. At present rights and liabilities are generally linked to the formal employment relationship. That certainly will be removed."

"If companies don't adequately prepare they will find themselves in serious trouble. The proposals are of crucial significance to employers across the board in every sector of business and whatever their size. Once they are in force a single botched dismissal could easily bring a company to its knees."

He pointed out that another proposal in the White Paper was that the £12,000 limit to compensation for unfair dismissal would be lifted.

Mr Moore believed that companies in future would be less likely to out-source functions if they thought they would become responsible for contractors' employees, without having full control over them.

Osborne Clarke intends to make the points in its submission to government as part of a consultation period on the White Paper, although Mr Moore pointed out that ministers had not asked for comments on that part of the document.

The law firm believes the White Paper marks a "major shift" in the balance of power at work towards unions and employees. While most of the publicity had concentrated on the union recognition issue, there were other issues which were "just as momentous", said Mr Moore.

The white paper proposed the right of employees to be represented by a union official at disciplinary hearings at all workplaces, whether or not a union was recognised. There were also proposals to extend maternity and paternity rights and to give time off for "urgent family reasons".

Union leaders generally welcomed the Government's policy statement, but registered their strong disagreement with the rules governing ballots on union recognition.

Ministers are insisting that 40 per cent of employees in a bargaining unit would have to endorse recognition for it to win the backing of the law. Unions argue that it should be a simple majority of those voting in a ballot.



A rally drivers' training centre run by a former winner of the Monte Carlo rally has announced plans for a listing on the Oxfex market, raising a minimum of £270,000. Rally Corp, based in the Welsh National Forest, runs a

training, testing and driving centre for rallying enthusiasts. The business is chaired by Terry Harryman, who won the Monte Carlo rally with Paddy Hopkirk. Rally Corp's revenue is expected to come mainly from tuition fees, corporate hospitality and corporate training. The company's projected pre-tax profit for the 15 months to October 1999 is £110,000 rising to £520,000 in 2001. The company is issuing 4 million shares at 25p each.

Treasury chides IFAs over pensions

BY ANDREW VERTIY

THE TREASURY will tomorrow summon 40 of the country's biggest independent financial advisers to face a stiff reprimand over their slowness in carrying out the £15bn pension mis-selling review.

Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, will demand the IFAs explain face-to-face why they have been significantly slower than life insurers in compensating a total of half a million urgent cases which should have been reviewed by the end of 1996.

Urgent cases include tens of thousands of people who have retired, died, or transferred to another pension scheme since being sold a personal pension in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

In recent testimony to the Treasury Select Committee,

the IFA Association, a trade body for IFAs, said it feared many members would go out of business because of the second phase of the review, involving 1.5 million non-urgent cases and £7bn in compensation.

IFAs must pay the full cost of compensating mis-selling victims from shareholders' funds. This contrasts with life offices, such as the Prudential, which recently said it would charge £1.1bn for pension compensation to a fund partly owned by policyholders.

Garry Heath, head of the IFA Association, said: "This (Tuesday's) meeting is just going to be more showboating. We've had enough of it. People aren't getting on with sorting it out."

There is bound to be a lot of criticism," one industry expert said. "BA and American

Brussels verdict on BA deal due

THE EUROPEAN Commission is set to give its long-awaited verdict on two key transatlantic air pacts on Wednesday, sparking certain criticism from alliance partners and rivals alike.

The conclusions will be a major turning point in a two-year regulatory review of a deal between British Airways and American Airlines, and of a rival but less controversial pact between United Airlines, Lufthansa and Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS).

The European Union's competition watchdog will, however, only make draft recommendations and all parties will be keeping their options open.

"There is bound to be a lot of criticism," one industry expert said. "BA and American

have no interest whatsoever in agreeing to the Commission's demands at this stage and a lot of [competing] airlines will say that it's not fair – that the Commission has not been tough enough."

The deal would also provide a springboard into Europe for Racial Telecom, expected to be floated off from parent Racial Electronics late next year. The deal could fuel speculation of a merger with Colt, which has networks in several big European cities and has seen rapid growth in its value since a flotation in 1996.

Nursing sale

ASHBOURNE Nursing Homes has struck a £67.3m sale and leaseback deal on 29 homes with Reit Asset Management. The portfolio consists of 1,955 beds and the homes will be leased back to Ashbourne on a 20-year lease agreement yielding £5.5m a year in rent.

Satellite float

SHARES in Luxembourg's Societe Europeenne des Satellites have been priced at 6,000 Luxembourg francs (\$160) each in an initial public offering. SES, the operator of the Astra satellite broadcasting system, is valued at 223.4bn Luxembourg francs at the offer price.

Japan's vagueness leaves Asian markets nervous

BY LEA PATERSON

if the Japanese economy is to drag itself out of recession.

At a news conference in southern Japan on Friday, the Prime Minister was reported as saying: "I hope to have a permanent tax reform and that is the direction I think it will go."

However, in a television interview at the weekend, Mr Hashimoto denied that his comments last week were

about tax reform had been misinterpreted. He told Television Asahi: "I never said permanent tax cuts. I just said we would review the tax system to make permanent reforms. Of course, I don't think as a result of the reforms, we would end up with a tax rise, but I can't guarantee a tax cut – it's possible that it might also be neutral."

Mr Hashimoto denied that his comments last week were

made to try and drum up support for his Liberal Democratic Party in next week's elections.

On Friday, the Nikkei 225, Tokyo's blue-chip share index, closed up 40 points at 16,511.24. Rumours of tax cuts helped to buoy up fragile investor sentiment, which had been dealt a blow on Thursday evening when the government's long-awaited plans for financial re-

form failed to live up to their advertising billing.

On Thursday, the government announced plans to clear 77 trillion yen (£30bn) of problem loans through "bridge banks" that would take over failed institutions.

In Tokyo, analysts were predicting that Mr Hashimoto's attempts to play down permanent tax cuts could hit both the stock market and the exchange rate.

Garry Evans, a strategist at HSBC Securities, said the Nikkei index would fall back if there was no concrete news on tax cuts and bank mergers.

Masatoshi Kikuchi, senior market analyst at Daiwa Institute of Research, said: "The market's reaction to government announcements has been excessively positive. After a round of buying, people will start looking at the effectiveness

of the government's policies."

Meanwhile, the South Korean government said it would tolerate a sharp rise in this year's budget deficit in order to cut consumption taxes in an attempt to support its weak economy. The Korean finance ministry said it planned to raise this year's target for the overall government budget deficit to 4 per cent of gross domestic product from 1.7 percent.

Somerfield basks in stock market approval

SOMERFIELD, the supermarket chain which struggled to get a cut price flotation two years ago, now bask in stock market approval. The group's merchant banker had to lower the sale price from 160p to 160p and then to 145p. Institutions were inclined to give the issue the old heave-ho but private investors were rather more charitable.

Today the early backers who have retained their shares are showing a handsome gain - from an adjusted low of 147.5p the price hit 403.5p in May and ended last week at 383.5p.

Year's figures, due this week, are likely to underline the merits of such a high-flying performance. Mike Dennis, the SG Securities analyst who has a 530p target, is shooting for profits of £120m and expects a heady progression to £260m in 2002.

The take-over of the ailing Kwik Save discount chain will provide much of the impetus although Mr Dennis has factored only a 5pm contribution into this week's forecast.

He suggests the "parsimonious character" of Somerfield's chief executive David Simons "can rectify the unfavourable relative movement between costs and sales that led to the demise of Kwik Save".

It was Somerfield's inglorious history that made it such a dog's dinner of a new issue. At the time it was in the eyes of many still the old Gateway chain, acquired by Isosceles i: an ill-fated £2.1bn leveraged buy-out which should never be far from the thoughts of the accountants putting together

STOCK MARKET WEEK



DEREK PAIN

some of today's decidedly adventurous financial packages.

At one time Gateway appeared to teeter on the brink of disaster as Isosceles seemed about to collapse under the weight of its debt burden. A refinancing and the arrival of Mr Simons from Storehouse saved the day.

The smallest of the quoted supermarket chains, Budgens, is also on this week's heavily retail influenced reporting schedule. As with Somerfield it should illustrate the four giants were not having things all their own way and should produce year's profits of £10.6m against £9.1m.

Exuberance will be in short supply when Dixons, the electrical retailer, plugs in its profits. The stock market was shocked by the tone of its January trading statement, and since worries first surfaced in the Christmas run-up the shares have come down from 720p. They now bump along at 505p.

Last year Dixons, enjoying the conversion windfalls, scored a 40 per cent profits advance. Nathan Cockrell at BT

Alex Brown expects a 10.3 per cent increase this time to £215m.

Harveys Furnishings, a retailer which has grown rapidly and now embraces more than 300 shops, should check in with nearly doubled profits of £16m.

Time is, more or less, called on the long-running beverage profits season when the biggest brewer in the land, Scottish & Newcastle, rolls out its performance.

Because of its Scottish origins the group has tended to concentrate on production rather than retailing. But pubs are now playing a more influential role in its strategy. In recent years it acquired the Chef & Brewer chain and earlier this year picked up more than 300 outlets.

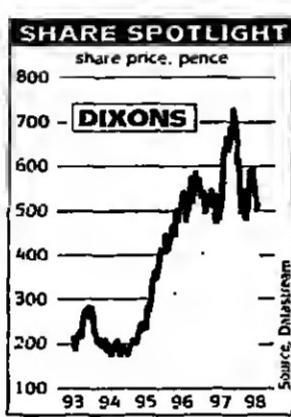
The fashion for branded pubs has captivated its imagination and such banners as Rat & Parrot and John Barraclough have been introduced. By April 2001 it expects to have 65 per cent of its managed outlets carrying one of its brand names.

The Fosters' and John Smith's group is unlikely to be having things all their own way and should produce year's profits of £10.6m against £9.1m.

Exuberance will be in short supply when Dixons, the electrical retailer, plugs in its profits. The stock market was shocked by the tone of its January trading statement, and since worries first surfaced in the Christmas run-up the shares have come down from 720p. They now bump along at 505p.

Last year Dixons, enjoying the conversion windfalls, scored a 40 per cent profits advance. Nathan Cockrell at BT

Source: Datastream



THE WEEK'S DIARY

Monday: Finals: Matthew Clark, Tomkins. AGMs: Seton Healthcare. EGMs: Benchmark Group. Economic Indicators: industrial production (May), manufacturing (May).

Tuesday: Finals: Berkeley Group, Bespak, Budgens, Harveys Furnishing, John Menzies, RPC. Interims: Low & Bonar.

Wednesday: Finals: Dixons Group, Scottish & Newcastle. Events: MPC interest rate meeting begins.

Thursday: Finals: Somerfield, AGMs: BAA, Christian Salvesen, Cox Insurance, EGMs: First Choice Holiday, Economic Indicators: new construction orders (May). Events: MPC interest rate decision.

Friday: AGMs: J Sainsbury, Storehouse.

holiday operations, Center Parcs and Pontins. Indeed, the industry believes that if a bidder with a suitable offer appeared Scottish would grab the opportunity to off-load the holiday centres.

At the interim stage leisure

profits were down 23 per cent and as Graeme Eddie at BT Alex Brown says: "Investors will be looking to the management for some reassurance that the problems are being resolved and that it has a long-term plan for the business."

Nigel Popham at Teather & Greenwood anticipates group profits of £430m against £374m.

There will be little, if any, cheer from Matthew Clark, the cider group that also produces British wines and has an extensive drink distribution business.

Pannure Gordon's Philip Shaw is looking for £23m; Greig Middleton's Martin Hawkins is on £31m. Last year's figure was £42.2m.

The group has yet to recover from a profits warning two years ago when its shares collapsed from more than 80p to around 35p.

Until then Matthew Clark had not put a foot wrong under chief executive Peter Aliens. It was highly regarded and had no difficulty raising City cash for a string of ambitious takeovers.

The brief popularity of alcopops hit it to the core; under-investment in cider promotion was another factor. Since then it has had to contend with the downturn in the cider market which, as revealed last week, has badly hit its rival HP Bulmer.

Corporate recovery specialists say their intensive care units, which banks use to monitor over-stretched companies, are busier than the first quarter of the year and more corporate recovery specialists are being sent to monitor problem clients.

Roger Oldfield, senior corporate recovery partner at KPMG, says: "The number of investigations we are doing for banks has increased in the past few months. We haven't seen any upturn in insolvencies, but you get the investigations work way before things fall over."

Chris Hughes, a senior partner in the corporate recovery department of PricewaterhouseCoopers, has noticed a similar trend: "There has been a bit of a pick-up in the number of early warnings to bankers recently. But this doesn't always lead to company collapses. This rise in business has prompted Buchler Phillips to increase staffing levels. "We have 20 per cent more people than we did 18 months ago," Mr Hughes says.

Corporate rescue specialists will be awaiting the decision on interest rates by the Bank of England this week even more keenly than most. After several lean years with company failures falling to the low figures last seen in the mid-1980s, the

Crippled firms fuel fears of recession

News analysis: The number of companies in banks' intensive care departments is increasing. Recovery specialists hope they have the answer

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

THERE has been a "significant rise" in the number of companies being referred to the intensive care departments of the leading banks in the last few months, fuelling fears that the economy may be drifting towards recession.

Leading corporate recovery

specialists say their intensive care units, which banks use to monitor over-stretched companies, are busier than the first quarter of the year and more corporate recovery specialists are being sent to monitor problem clients.

Slow-down, hard landing, mini-recession: whatever the MPC decision this week, it appears that the British economy is heading for a bumpy ride than most people thought. Asia, rising interest rates, the high pound, failing exports, exorbitant pay settlements have all helped to damage sentiment.

But does this mean the liquidators can look forward to more work?

Simon Freakley, a senior partner in the corporate recovery department of PricewaterhouseCoopers, has noticed a similar trend: "There has been a bit of a pick-up in the number of early warnings to bankers recently. But this doesn't always lead to company collapses. This rise in business has prompted Buchler Phillips to increase staffing levels. "We have 20 per cent more people than we did 18 months ago," Mr Freakley says.

"The economy is more difficult than it was six months ago. There are more companies on the banks' early warning systems."

Mr Hughes is a senior partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers, the newly merged accountancy firm. He says confidence is the most important factor at the moment. "The economy is a bit shaky in its confidence at the moment. It could talk itself into a harder landing than would have been the case."

The crisis in the Far East has hit exports, particularly textiles. He says there has been a loss of confidence in the textile industry, and what he calls "flaky asset companies" such as software and high-tech start-ups with big development costs and low sales.

Mr Freakley thinks that tailing is looking particularly vulnerable: "Last year a lot of people received windfall payments from building societies and spent them on the high street. That hasn't happened this year, and people are not using credit like they did in 1980s."

Another badly hit sector is manufacturing, he says. "There is a lot of heavily discounted product around, which is making it tough for manufacturers. The key word is confidence. And as far as Britain's receivers are concerned, events in the Far East will be far more important in that respect than any decision made by the MPC this week."

The people who have their collective finger on the trigger are the banks. They decide when to support a company through a sticky patch, and when to pull the plug by sending in the receivers. Mr Oldfield agreed that the banks are starting their investigations earlier.

Mr Oldfield is concerned that few people in the West understand the scale of the crisis in the Far Eastern economies and the potential impact on Britain. "They [in the Far East] can't buy from us they can't export, and yet they trade with all the mature economies. There could be a pack of cards effect, and we could get dragged in."

Having said that, few recovery specialists believe there is any chance that we are about to suffer a recession as severe as that of the early 1990s or early 1980s.

Mr Oldfield says: "There's a lot of fat left on corporates and individuals. UK hotels are doing well, overseas travel is booming, there are plenty of cranes about."

The key word is confidence. And as far as Britain's receivers are concerned, events in the Far East will be far more important in that respect than any decision made by the MPC this week."



Chris Hughes: 'confidence is the most important factor'

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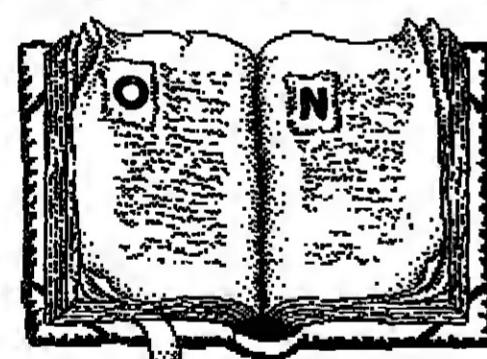
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SPORT

From kilts in Paris to frogs' legs in Monte Carlo – an odd sort of odyssey

ONE MAN'S WORLD CUP



Phil Shaw returned home yesterday after 28 days reporting on France 98. This is his tale from the front line and the sidelines

SUNDAY 7 JUNE
Staffordshire

AFTER ALL the anticipation, the interminable special supplements and weeks of "Top of the World" and "Don't Come Home Too Soon", I am on a London-bound train at the start of my World Cup odyssey.

My nine-year-old son waves from the platform, tears in his eyes and a Brazil shirt on his back. When I bought it the shop assistant muttered sarcastically: "I never knew there was so many Brazilians around here." There will be a lot more where I am heading.

MONDAY 8 JUNE
London/Paris

ARRIVING in the French capital by Eurostar train I find that my hotel is covered in graffiti declaring "Vive Le Pen" in support of the French fascist leader. The first word has a line through it, with "Jamals" (Never) scrawled in its place. It is an early reminder that France is a real place with on-going problems, not simply a giant football theme park.

WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE
St Denis

THOUSANDS of ticket-less fans cram into bars and parks to watch the Brazil v Scotland match on giant screens. Others mill around outside the Stade de France, plastered in face-paint or simply plastered, desperate to be close to the action. The Scots are keen not to be seen as British, which to them is synonymous with English, so kilts are *de rigueur*. The only angry words I hear are directed at "Lord", Mancunian sidekick to the Radio One DJ, Mark Radcliffe, who is hosting his show from the site. His crime is to wear a Scotland jersey.

The opening ceremony is a surreal collision of *The Wizard of Oz* and the *Teletoobies*. There are too few supporters of the participating teams to create the desired atmosphere, although Craig Brown's squad enhanced the occasion by going walkabout in kilts.

Scotland make a promising start against the world champions with the sort of self-inflicted wound (an own goal) for which they are famous. When I head for my Metro train back into town, hours after the game, remnants of the Tartan Army are still wandering around in a thunderstorm. Like the *mascara*, France 98 is up and running.

THURSDAY 11 JUNE
Paris/Avignon

THE TREK south to Provence, where Scotland are based, becomes more arduous when the train breaks down. I would normally be delighted to visit Macon Loche and sample the wares of its vineyards, yet being stuck in the middle of nowhere does not endear its name to me.

A group of South Africa fans kill the time with an impromptu game on a tiny strip of grass. When the replacement train finally turns up, I am sitting with them. White, black and Asian, they are united by a love of football and fuelled by huge amounts of alcohol, which they are carrying around France in crates.

FRIDAY 12 JUNE
Marseilles

IN THE city from where many of the Crusades embarked, an uncommonly spiteful variant of the Mistral wind chills the T-shirt'd crowd as France set off in search of their own Holy Grail. A 3-0 win over South Africa cannot mask their lack of a



Clockwise from top left: Michael Owen scores against Argentina; Scottish fans frolic in St Etienne prior to the game against Morocco; Craig Burley is sent off by referee Ali Mohamed Buijsain in the same game; Patrick Kluivert and Dennis Bergkamp celebrate their goals against Argentina; Scottish fans after the loss to Morocco; Michael Owen; the Dutch coach Guus Hiddink (with ball); Paolo Maldini

Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee

top-class finisher. The Bafana boys at least have their booze to keep them warm.

SATURDAY 13 JUNE
Montelmar

MY RAILWAY hoodoo persists. Setting off to visit the Tunisians' training camp ahead of their trip with England, I am 75 minutes late reaching their host town. Dozens of cars festooned with flowers delay me further by circling the station like Apaches besieging a wagon train. It turns out to be a North African wedding celebration but a taxi eventually beats the blockade and spirits me to a tiny suburban 'stadium'.

Luckily, we are just in time. The press conference is held in a cold, stone dressing-room without electricity and still holding of Deep Heat. It provides a good story, too. Henryk Kasperczak, Tunisia's coach, announces his defection to Bastia.

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE
Montpellier

REACHING THE town of Libourne in the small hours, the only food outlet open is run by Tunisians. Noticing a man buying something in pitta bread, I ask in French for "the same thing, please". The proprietor is not fooled, asking: "You are English?" With the embarrassments of recent days in mind, I lie. "Non, Ecossais." He shakes my hand.

That evening, back in the steamy south, I am there to see Italy overcome Cameroon. Later the sound of a stray band of England supporters

English counterparts' antics in Marseilles.

When Pat Nevin, the *Independent*'s columnist, gets on the bus from station to stadium he is surrounded by fellow Scots wanting to pose for photos with him. Then the chorus of "There's only one Pat Nevin" strikes up from the back seat. Despite his blushes he joins a group of Norwegian Chelsea fans for a beer.

One of the Scotland players told me they were seething over a newspaper preview which warned: "Don't come home at all unless you win". After falling behind, they draw, but in such stirring style that the local bars are drunk dry. Convivial chaos beats premeditated malice any day.

belted out "No surrender to the IRA" at 3am in Avignon is a rude awakening in more ways than one.

FRIDAY 19 JUNE
Avignon

AS I wait outside a restaurant for two colleagues, Johan Cruyff pulls up in a spotless black BMW and enters. It is the perfect opportunity to ask the great man to come over during our meal and pretend he knows me. As in the old joke, I would reply: "Get lost, Johan". Then I remember his reputation for prickliness and think better of it.

SATURDAY 20 JUNE
Marseilles

A COLOURFUL city, blessed with a cocktail of cultures, the so-called Naples of France has never seen anything like this: 25,000 Dutch supporters all wearing orange, like a massive convention of extras from a Tango ad. The Dutch pass masterfully to swamp South Korea 5-0.

TUESDAY 23 JUNE
St Etienne

ON THE train north to the crucial game with Morocco, Scotland fans pack the buffet car. There is much mirth over England's defeat the

previous evening. One wag keeps doing a mock Eurovision Song Contest routine: "Ere are ze scores," he bellows. "Roumanie deux points, Andorre un."

The hotels have been full for months so I am booked into a bed-and-breakfast place out of town. Arriving late because of yet another faulty train, the tourist bureau insists I visit my host to pick up a key. I make it to the ground just in time to see the Scots sunk 3-0.

Craig Burley, having gone bottle blond overnight, is sent off. One scribe compares him (somewhat unfairly) with an attention-seeking golf novice spouting flash white shoes. The fans bow out with deafening defiance and dignity. Until they spot Ally McCoist, whose kilt provokes the mercifully unregulated appeal: "Ally, Ally, show us yer arse!"

WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE
St Etienne/Avignon

REACHING MY B&B in a pitch-black country lane, I spend 15 minutes groping the gate until I find the tiny keyhole.

That evening Spain batter Bulgaria 6-1. By unfortunate coincidence, I later see one of MTV's pre-recorded interviews with footbalers in which Hristo Stoichkov explains modestly his belief that there

are two Christs: "The one up there, and me down here".

THURSDAY 25 JUNE
Montpellier

GERMANY V IRAN and the area around the station is heaving with gendarmes and armed security men, grim-faced after German neo-Nazis left one of their colleagues in a coma at Lens. Bert Vogts' team secure a scrappy win.

FRIDAY 26 JUNE
Lyons

THIS IS THE gastronomic capital of Western civilisation, boasting a galaxy of Michelin stars, though the only farm my schedule allows for is the cheerless variety in the stadium press centre. The match between Jamaica and Japan proves unexpectedly palatable despite a freakish phenomenon I have not seen since St Denis: rain.

SATURDAY 27 JUNE
Marseilles

THE HOTTEST day of all. An English flag amid a sea of Italian and Norwegian banners bears the message: "France – We are sorry." The wee man (as sustained exposure to the Scots has taught me to call anyone smaller than my own 6ft 4in) is waiting to greet me in his Brazil shirt.

The voice of football on the Midlands radio station, BRMB. Tom Ross, manages to collar Paolo Maldini afterwards. Emerging from the interview, he announces that his beloved Birmingham City are to sign the *Azzurri* heart-throb on Monday.

SUNDAY 28 JUNE
Avignon

ONE OF the few remaining members of the Scottish press corps, a good Catholic boy, is in deep contemplation at evening mass. The calm is shattered by an almighty roar from nearby bars and houses. France's "golden goal" has just left Paraguay without a prayer.

MONDAY 29 JUNE
Montpellier

ON ANOTHER afternoon of barbecued flesh and frazzled nerves, I watch Germany labour to beat Mexico. The police use their water cannon, but on spray-power only to cool down those, like myself, happy to come out resembling entrants in a wet T-shirt competition.

TUESDAY 30 JUNE
St Etienne

WITH A mixture of dread and eagerness I make for my first England game, against Argentina. In the city centre a bandstand is adorned by a massive Union flag bearing the legend "Stockport County", as if planted by an invading army. I bump into a colleague from *Loaded* magazine, who was getting on famously with the English lads on his train until one asked whether he had a ticket. "Oh, I'm in the press stand," he blurted out, provoking a trade of abuse.

The match is a cracker. Michael Owen scores the most exciting goal I've seen in years, only for 10-man England to go out on penalties. As I leave the press centre, for once feeling proud to be English, sirens wail and someone is warning: "It's all gone off in the town." An exaggeration, it transpires, but my bed is in Lyons, far removed from those who would turn a football match into a re-run of the Falklands war.

THURSDAY 2 JULY
Monte Carlo

AT USA 94 I spent my birthday in Dallas awaiting a Brazil v Netherlands match. Fate and French railways have brought me to an even more exotic location, doorstepping the Dutch before another quarter-final, against Argentina.

As on my arrival in Texas, the first English face I see at their cliff-top hotel is that of the BBC's Garth Crooks. As we gaze out over the glistening Mediterranean, his North Staffordshire accent and desire to debate the respective merits of the Potties clubs reminds me that I am on the homeward track.

Later I realise who Guus Hiddink, the Dutch coach, reminds me of – one of Harry Enfield's Scousers ("Calm down!") Four years ago to the day I ate alligator in a Cajun bar. I am tempted to start a tradition by ordering "frogs' legs in citronella and spicy red pepper" with my evening meal before undergoing a sudden attack of vegetarianism.

SATURDAY 4 JULY
Marseilles

AU REVOIR, Avignon. A cacophony of car horns, chanting teenagers and a husking bagpiper – showing greater opportunism than any Scottish striker by playing the French anthem – shook the city walls to their ancient foundations during the night following France's shoot-out KO of Italy.

At my quarter-final an Argentinian banner gloats: "Don't cry for us, England". I am demob-happy to comply with the request after Dennis Bergkamp, ice in his veins in the Stade de Saona, puts the Dutch through at the death.

FRIDAY 5 JULY
Marseilles/Paris/Birmingham

IN TWO French airport lounges, at an unearthly hour bleary-eyed travellers peruse silent images of Pele and Banks, Beckenbauer and Charlton in Mexico 1970 on large screens. The host nation is waking up to warnings that beating Croatia will be no formality.

After four weeks as chequered as Igor Stimac's strip, I am exhilarated to find Air France more punctual than their rivals on the rails. The wee man (as sustained exposure to the Scots has taught me to call anyone smaller than my own 6ft 4in) is waiting to greet me in his Brazil shirt.

Bell sounds way to peace

AFTER WATCHING the Godolphin runners finish first, second and third in the Eclipse on Saturday, you could only wonder whether an all-red strip might be more appropriate than their now famous royal blue, in honour of the Liverpool side of the Seventies and Eighties which dominated its rivals in similar fashion. Last season was, by Godolphin's impossible standards, a disappointment, but they have regrouped to such effect that with four months of campaigning still to come, a second trainers' title for Saeed bin Suroor is all but secured.

Saturday's clean sweep shovelled another £200,000 into the current account, and Godolphin has now accumulated almost 50 per cent more prize money than Luca Cumani, their closest pursuer, and almost twice as much as Henry Cecil, who is in third place. Daylami, the Eclipse winner, will now attempt to follow up in the King George at Ascot, where Cumani's High-Rise should figure among his opponents. With Swain, last year's winner, also earmarked for the King George, the boys in blue will again be the team to beat.

What with the World Cup and Wimbledon, Godolphin's unique achievement at Sandown did not attract the attention it deserved, though few within racing would regard it with anything but awe. The only exceptions to that rule might be among the ranks of small-scale racehorse owners, who have long since given up trying to compete with Team Maktoum, but then as we were reminded just a few days ago, this is a group for whom com-

COMMENTARY



GREG WOOD

plaining is as natural as breakfast.

The difference this week, though, was that they could do it face to face with the man who is, for some of them at least, a cross between Professor Moriarty and Ming the Merciless. The Annual General Meeting of the Racehorse Owners' Association is always a forum for belyaching, but it rarely has a

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Mendoza (Windsor 6.35)
NB: Shimaal (Windsor 9.05)

focus. This year, though, sitting beside Peter Savill on the platform, was none other than Chris Bell, chief executive of Ladbrokes and by general consent, the most significant figure in the bookmaking industry.

It was too good an opportunity for some of them to miss, and many of the questions directed at Bell were more accusative than inquisitive. Relations between owners and bookmakers, which are rarely

cordial, are particularly frosty at present. It is only a fortnight or so since a report commissioned by the big bookies poured buckets of iced water over their beloved Financial Plan For Racing, of which Savill was the principal author.

None the less, it is a positive sign when such a prominent figure in the bookmaking industry prefers to engage his opponents in person rather than rubbish them from a distance. It is encouraging for punters too, for while the bookies will never be ideal guardians of the betting person's interests, they will certainly offer robust resistance if the owners attempt to pick the punters' pockets to boost their return from racing.

For Bell, the meeting was an instructive experience. "After the meeting, four or five people came up to me to apologise for the behaviour of the more zealous individuals," he said yesterday. "There will always be a vocal minority who are rude, and you will never reach an agreement with them because they are bigoted, but fortunately the vast majority can see what it's all about, and that gives you hope."

What it is all about is the hope that two separate but inter-dependent industries can find a way forward which is to the long-term benefit of both. As Bell admits, however many in racing still harbour deep suspicions about the bookmakers' long-term objectives. "People have this impression that we will try and get rid of horse racing, but it's absolutely wrong," he says. "Horse racing is 70 per cent of our business, and in the last year that has hardened. The new



Daylami and Frankie Dettori lead home the Godolphin team in Saturday's Eclipse Stakes at Sandown

Julian Herbert/Allsport

areas of our business, betting on sports and numbers, amount to no more than 10 per cent, and have only moved by a few per cent over the last 10 years."

It is also encouraging that in the face of threats from the racing industry to tinker with the

fixture list, to favour the demands of racecourses over those of the betting shops, the bookies have not replied with counter-threats of their own. "The last time the fixture list became more turnstile-friendly, betting turnover started to show a new

very sharp decline," Bell said. "If you undermine the horse racing business from any direction, that's when suddenly the two ends of the rope don't meet."

The crucial test, however, will come when the two sides get together to agree a new

Levy scheme, since this is the point when those who propelled Savill to power at the BHB will expect him to deliver. Any hint of weakness in his part will not be quickly forgiven, and the heightened expectations of racehorse owners will give him

little room for manoeuvre. For anyone who has studied the history of the Great War, it should be somewhat disturbing to hear Bell's belief that, with sufficient goodwill on both sides, the negotiations could all be over by Christmas.

BATH

HYPERION
2.00 Make Way
2.30 Mayfair Ballerina
3.00 Dlimming
4.30 SIHAFI (nap)

GOING: Good. **STALLS:** Straight course for 6ds, round course inside. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** Low, best 5 & 11/2yds.
LEAD: Handicapping route. Four furlongs run-bends to left and is uphill. Course is 5f NW of city. **ADMISSION:** Club £15; Tattersalls £19; Silver Ring £12; Concorde £12; Car Park: Centre £5, remainder free.

LEADING JOCKEYS: J. Eddery 12-12 (15/4); F. Berry 12-10 (16/5); P. Cole 12-7 (20/5); M. Chapman 11-12 (15/4); F. Berry 12-10 (16/5); L. Dettori 17-6 (23/4); T. Cullen 10-12 (22/5); Paul Eddery 10-12 (16/5); T. Sprake 12-12 (16/5).

FAVOURITES: 5/2 Quantus (34/1). **BLINKERED FIRST TIME:** Quantus (34/1); Antonia's Choice (43/1).

2.00 EVERSHIN MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,600 added 2YD 5f 16/11yds Penalty Value £3,420

1 CHARGE (10) D. Lycett 10/1 Bath 3 Smart 9.0 ... J. Stock 13
2 DIGIT (10) Mrs. L. Corry 9.0 ... T. Gurn 9.0 ...
3 FINAL DIVIDER (20) Mrs. K. House 10/1 P. Refford-Goddy 9.0 ... S. Sanders 1
4 FLUTE (10) Mrs. L. Corry 9.0 ... R. Radford 8
5 GOING (10) Mrs. L. Corry 9.0 ... L. Dettori 8
6 306 STYLING (10) Mrs. L. Corry 9.0 ... T. Gurn 9.0 ...
7 CAERDYN FAITH (10) D. Morris 9.0 ... H. Eddery 9.0 ...
8 6 DORRISIO (10) Mrs. L. Corry 9.0 ... M. Dwyer 8.9
9 MEIGS PEARL (23) L. Clegg 8.8 ... J. Egan 11
10 MONTE MARE (10) Mrs. L. Corry 9.0 ... A. Eddery 8.9
11 MY PEGGY (10) Mrs. L. Corry 9.0 ... D. Chapman 8.9 ...
12 SAVIOR FAIR (10) Mrs. L. Corry 9.0 ... P. Eddery 8.9
13 THICKET (10) Mrs. L. Corry 9.0 ... T. Sprake 8.9
- 13 declared -

BETTING: 5-2 Make Way, 5-2 Flite, 6-1 Final Divider, 8-1 Dorrissio, Thicket, 10-1 Charge, Styring, My Peggy, 18-1 First Divider, 8-1 Diggit, 10-1 D. Chapman, 12-1 Goings, 14-1 Quantus.

FDRM GUIDE

Charge: Quality backed but missed the break when staying-on third, beaten two necks to Ace Avi when tried in maiden auction over course and distance. Clearly well thought of and will be better for the experience; sure to play prominent role.

Diggit: Weak colt, half brother to winners. Stable juveniles in excellent form. Flite: 25-4 and backward when promoted to the first furlong, four and three-quarter lengths fourth to Tough Guy at Kempton 16/5, soft. Sure to play a big part.

Goings: Red Hanover colt cut off by strong USA relay Miller of the World. Stable young sire. Final Divider: Has shown much in latest starts at Newmarket and Chester.

Caerdyn Faith: Bluebird half-sister to several winners including middle-distance performer Brandon Jack. Stable youngsters of the mark last week.

Dorrissio: Failed to cope off the back after off Step Cracker on Sandown debut in April 16/5. Looks steady second start, though. Soft ground.

Meigs Pearl: Failed to live up to promise on Doncaster debut when weakened over 11f. Run 9/5 (beaten 16 lengths) to Focus in at York 16/5. Could improve.

My Peggy: Fairly fast, has started to several winners including Narrator. Stable young sire. Monty: Relatively quiet, half-sister to 71 winner Commander Baker.

Thicket: Wombley filly, half-sister to winning sprinter Thicket. Hard in god form.

VERDICT: The booking of Frankel and Make Way looks significant and the Ian Balding yard has a 34 per cent success rate with its youngsters here. But experience is a major factor in two-year-old races and the debut performers shown by Charge, Styring, My Peggy, Final Divider and Goings are likely to step up on Kempton but is held by Charge through Polynesia.

2.30 KNOCKDOWN SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2YO 5f 5f 5/1 Penalty Value £2,276

1 5 APOLLONIA (10) Mrs. J. Cuddy 9.0 ... T. Gurn 9.0 ...
2 6 CARTINI PARK (10) Mrs. J. Cuddy 9.0 ... T. Gurn 9.0 ...
3 300 COSMO JACK (10) Mrs. J. Cuddy 9.0 ... T. Gurn 9.0 ...
4 1523 FIVE WAYS FLYER (10) Mrs. B. Evans 8.9 ...
5 01269 LADY CABRINI (21) P. C. Conroy 9.0 ... J. Berry 9.0 ...
6 1509 JESSICA (10) (The Lambs) Mrs. C. Jones 9.0 ...
7 01270 KELLY (10) Mrs. C. Jones 9.0 ...
8 00004 MY MOTHER'S DREAM (16) (Deveronvale Racing Partnership) M. Buckley 8.7 ...
9 00005 WENDY (10) P. J. Conroy 9.0 ... N. Adeney 8.7 ...
10 15184 TULJAHAN (10) Mrs. C. Jones 9.0 ... R. French 3

- 10 declared -

BETTING: 5-2 Cosmo Jack, 11-4 Lady Cabrini, 6-1 Five Ways Flyer, 8-1 My Mother's Dream, 12-1 Apollonia, 15-1 Cosmic Aladdin, Jessicas, 25-1 others.

1997 no corresponding race

FORM GUIDE

Apollonia: Related to several winners but weak in betting and ridden three furlongs out when beaten ten lengths fifth behind Caspiki in similar event at Lingfield. **Cosmo Aladdin:** Bargain-basement youngster who was last of six, beaten 20 lengths to Lady Carbon in Wolverhampton all-weather winner (5f) on debut. Little obvious chance. **Cosmo Jack:** Well up to winning a seller on his ninth (of thirteen furlongs five lengths) to April in a race he had won at the same track and distance the previous year. **Five Ways Flyer:** Second to a very slow start. Previous signs of ability in eighth, higher gear and looks the one to beat.

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little room for manoeuvre. For anyone who has studied the history of the Great War, it should be somewhat disturbing to hear Bell's belief that, with sufficient goodwill on both sides, the negotiations could all be over by Christmas.

3.30 LIMPLEY STROKE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YD 2m 1 21 45yds Penalty Value £3,599

1 0-0 BODRILL TRADER (21) P. Murphy 9.0 ... J. Murphy 9.0 ...
2 0-0 CARRIED (10) Mrs. L. Corry 9.0 ... T. Gurn 9.0 ...
3 0-0 DUEL (10) Mrs. L. Corry 9.0 ... T. Gurn 9.0 ...
4 0-0 HOT SPOT (21) Queen Elizabeth 9.0 ...
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89 0-0 HOT

England see Perry shine in the mud

RUGBY UNION

By CHRIS HEWITT
at Newlands, Cape Town

South Africa 18
England 0

THE FINAL tally of a five-week funeral thinly disguised as an England rugby tour is so profoundly humiliating - 328 points and 46 tries conceded in the course of seven straight defeats - that it seems fateful to credit Clive Woodward with a stroke of coaching genius. But Woodward clearly knew something when, with the aid of his trusty credit card, he unilaterally upgraded his entire party to the colonial splendour of Cape Town's Mount Nelson hotel 24 hours before Saturday's bout of mud-wrestling at Newlands.

Who knows? Had he gone the whole hog and commanded the Parliament buildings, he might even have inspired a 0-0 draw. The tourists were never in much danger of actually scoring against a Springbok outfit not unreasonably rated the best in the world, but so did England's one-star Test line-up respond to the palatial surroundings of their five-star billet that they fully justified Woodward's bold diplomatic brinkmanship.

Woodward will have to answer for his brass-necked cheek in changing accommodation in changing circumstances

arrangements off his own impulsive bat, just as he will have to answer for the sheer volume of cock-ups and grotesqueries committed by his charges on various fields of play dotted around the southern hemisphere. But it is true to suggest that had this England, as opposed to the real England, been offered an 18-0 defeat before kick-off, they would happily have travelled from hotel to airport without bothering to stop off.

The winter rains left the Newlands surface, always prone to heaviness, in such a desperate state that any player entering a ruck without the aid of a snorkel was presumed to be harbouring a death wish.

So unplayable were the conditions that even Wales might have kept the Bokke under 50.

TOUR RECORD

6 June - Australia (Brisbane) 18-0 Final humiliation, England's worst in 127 years

13 June - New Zealand A (Hamilton) lost 18-10. Rain-lashed Rugby Park witnessed a vastly improved England performance

16 June - New Zealand Academy (Invercargill) 18-10. England taught a valuable lesson in communication and Englishing by New Zealand's next generation

20 June - New Zealand (Dunedin) lost 24-18. England's first win since 1986 when Danny Grewcock, us sent him

23 June - New Zealand Maoris (Rotorua) lost 62-14. Home crowd literally laughed at England, who are torn apart

27 June - New Zealand (Wellington) lost 40-10. England's best display on tour, just 14-10 down until final quarter

29 June - South Africa (Cape Town) lost 50-0. Committed display in atrocious conditions

Year record: Played 7. Lost 7. Points for 69. Points against 328.

An exaggeration? Okay, then. Let's say 60 and call it quits.

Nick Mallett, the pragmatic Springbok coach, had been generally concerned by the wet-weather skills of the English forwards and was equally genuine in his public display of relief at the final whistle. "I suppose there is always the possibility of rain in Cape Town but we have very little expertise in such conditions and the fact that our strengths now lay with our wide players made the particular circumstances of this match more worrying than they might have been," he said.

People who presumed a 50-point Bokke victory got it wrong. On a dry day with fast going, we might well have cut loose. As it is, we've shut out a well-organized northern hemisphere side and learned a good deal about how to handle British conditions in next year's World Cup."

Confusingly enough, Woodward emerged from the sodden Newlands experience with similarly positive vibes. Bitterly frustrated both by his side's inability to mount a single meaningful attack and by the collapse of a meticulously planned kicking game after a bright opening quarter, he nevertheless glowed in the muscular commitment of Ben Clarke's pack. Matt Dawson's resourcefulness at scrum-half and Matt Perry's world-class defensive display at full-back

constituted the flip side of the record. His kicking, so fundamentally important on so many days, went missing from the first minute, as did Lewsey himself. Few would have mistaken Henry Honihall, the recalled Springbok stand-off, for a Test-class playmaker on Saturday but, by comparison with England's body beautiful, he was Barry John incarnate.

It was Lewsey's inexplicable lack of urgency, as much as his lack of control, that cost England an opening try that effectively broke the Test. Joost van der Westhuizen is quick - inordinately rapid - but Hattie Jacques could have charged down the Wasps youngster's clearance kick in the 21st minute and dawdled over the line to complete the touchdown formalities.

England's utter inability to swim into the South African half of the swamp meant that seven points were seven too many and the time Stefan Terblanche, all danger and bristling hostility on the Springbok right wing, completed a flashing 37th-minute score that would have been difficult enough to manufacture on the hard-baked surface of the high veldt. The contest was long finished. Two Percy Montgomery penalties

after the break were mere mud pies on the quagmire.

As a rehearsal for next year's probable World Cup quarter-final between the two countries, Saturday's game was spectacularly unstructured. Suffice to say that both coaches left Cape Town with "clear ideas" on how the other could be beaten when it really mattered. But Woodward, as is his wont, went further than anyone could have imagined: "We won't play the Boks because we'll beat the All Blacks to win our group," he predicted. And that after the most calamitous tour in English rugby history. Does nothing faze this man?

Perry was fantastic, no other word for it. The guy is such a footballer: not to drop a single ball on a God-awful afternoon like that was quite out of the ordinary in my view," Woodward said.

"Put a few pounds of beef on him, sharpen his pace just a little, and you have an English Cullen, an English Montgomery. Actually, he's right up there with those people already. I now regard him as a senior England player, rather than a newcomer, and he would have to be way, way out of form not to be my full-back in our next international."

If Perry's performance was

all-encompassing, Josh Lewsey constituted the flip side of the record. His kicking, so fundamentally important on so many days, went missing from the first minute, as did Lewsey himself. Few would have mistaken Henry Honihall, the recalled Springbok stand-off, for a Test-class playmaker on Saturday but, by comparison with England's body beautiful, he was Barry John incarnate.

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after the break were mere mud pies on the quagmire.

As a rehearsal for next year's probable World Cup quarter-final between the two countries, Saturday's game was spectacularly unstructured. Suffice to say that both coaches left Cape Town with "clear ideas" on how the other could be beaten when it really mattered. But Woodward, as is his wont, went further than anyone could have imagined: "We won't play the Boks because we'll beat the All Blacks to win our group," he predicted. And that after the most calamitous tour in English rugby history. Does nothing faze this man?

Muddied, but unbowed, Tony Diprose (with ball) contributes to a muscular display by England's forwards against South Africa

Allsport

South Africa: Tris van der Westhuizen, Terblanche; Converion Montgomery, P. Montgomery (Western Province), S. Terblanche (Western Province); H. Honihall (Natal), J. Van der Westhuizen (Northern Transvaal); R. Kempson (Natal), J. Dallas (Cape), G. Rossouw (Natal), K. Goss (Northern Transvaal), A. Groves (Natal), J. Erasmus (Free State), G. Teichmann (Natal), A. Venter (Free State), Replacement: O. Roux (Free State).

ENGLAND: B. Fidler (London), S. Brown (Richmond), M. Beal (Northampton), J. Bassendine (Sale), P. Sampson (Wasps); J. Lewsey (Wasps), M. Dawson (Northampton), C. Price (Glamorgan), L. Lewis (Cardiff), P. Lockett (Leicester), P. Vickery (Gloucester), R. Fidler (Gloucester), B. Clarke (Richmond), A. Diprose (Saracens), J. Wilkinson (Saracens); Replacement: T. Simpson (Leicester) for Sampson, 56.

Referee: C. Hawke (New Zealand)

South Africa: Tris van der Westhuizen, Terblanche; Converion Montgomery, P. Montgomery (Western Province), S. Terblanche (Western Province); H. Honihall (Natal), J. Van der Westhuizen (Northern Transvaal); R. Kempson (Natal), J. Dallas (Cape), G. Rossouw (Natal), K. Goss (Northern Transvaal), A. Groves (Natal), J. Erasmus (Free State), G. Teichmann (Natal), A. Venter (Free State), Replacement: O. Roux (Free State).

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Referee: C. Hawke (New Zealand)

A rare bit of joy for Wales

Daffodil Days - Glamorgan's Glorious Summer

By Grahame Lloyd (Gomer, £16.99)

DUNCAN FLETCHER, the Zimbabwean coach whose absence from the Glamorgan dressing room this season is proving the value of his presence last year, admits to having suffered grave doubts over whether his decision to leave Cape Town for Cardiff had been misguided. The doubts were dispelled, however, by the warmth of the welcome there.

It works for most visitors, whether they are staying or passing through. Hospitality and friendliness are central to the Welsh character, particularly in cricket, which explains why a Welsh county can win an English championship and be applauded with genuine affection on the other side of the border.

As Matthew Engel observes in his foreword to Grahame Lloyd's celebration of Glamorgan's triumphant journey through 1997, the normal rules of international rivalry do not apply in cricket.

In rugby, hostility between the Welsh and the English is historically intense. In cricket, however, the two nations are as one; indeed, a Welsh cricketer can aspire to no honour greater than representing England in a Test.

But a kind of nationalism does exist in Glamorgan, one which both Fletcher and Wagar Younis, who shared the outsider's perspective, quickly spotted. Pakistan's most feared fast bowler tells Lloyd he accepted the offer to go to Cardiff because "I felt

I would not just be playing for another county but another country... a really hard-working national team".

As such, Glamorgan enjoy a bond within the dressing room and beyond perhaps matched nowhere else on the county circuit. Like a national team they travel with an entourage of journalists, while listeners to BBC Radio Wales are entertained in Test Match Special by the commentary of Edward Bevan, the writer and broadcaster; Don Shepherd, who remains the county's record wicket-taker; and Andrew Nigell, the county's official statistician.

Lloyd interviews all three. In fact, he seeks personal memories of those Daffodil Days from almost everyone involved in Glamorgan's triumph, from chairman to scorer to the girls in the office at Sophia Gardens.

If truth be told the tale loses something for this. Charming and revealing though some recollections are, there are only so many ways in which the story of a season can be told without repetition.

Then again the joy and excitement of the year, not least in the sense of being there, has been captured in the way Lloyd intended, presumably. Which will be enough to stir fond thoughts in most Glamorgan supporters in years ahead, and perhaps in some from over the border too.

Jon Culley

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

1 **Gunning for the Double - The Story of Arsenal 1997-98** Sean Keaveny Whitcher (Sporting Editions, paperback £9.99)

2 **How Long's the Course? - My Autobiography** By Roger Black Andre Deutsch, hardback, £15.99

3 **Rough Guide - Behind the Wheel with a Pro Cyclist** By Paul Kimmage Yellow Jersey, paperback, £9.99

4 **Postcards from the Beach** By Phil Tufnell Collins Willow, paperback, £6.99

5 **Rugby League '98** Edited by David Middletoon (Harper Sports Australia, paperback, £13.95)

6 **The Complete Book of the World Cup** By Chris Freddi (Collins Willow, paperback, £14.99)

7 **The Ultimate Guide to International Marathons** By Dennis Crayhorn and Rich Hanna (Marathon Publishers Inc, paperback, £12.50)

8 **A Spirit of Dominance - Cricket and Nationalism in the West Indies** Edited by Hilary Beckles (Canoe Press, paperback £19.99)

9 **The Wisden Book of Cricket Records (Fourth edition)** By Bill Frindall (Headline, hardback, £40)

10 **Jim Laker - A Biography** By Alan Hill (Andre Deutsch, hardback, £17.99)

Chart compiled by Sportspress, 94-95 Charing Cross Road, London W1T 1JU 0800 240 9604) and St Ann's Square, Manchester M1 6SD 0555 000 000

WINDSOR

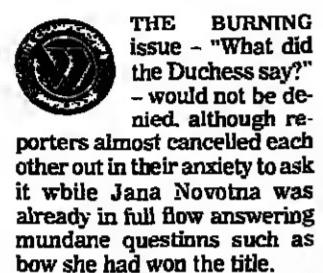
HYPERION

6.35 Tui 7.05 Lemon Bridge 7.35 Caudillo 8.05 Baltic Lowland 8.35 Hyacinth 9.05 Come Up Smiling

GOING: Good. **STALLS:** Inside. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** High best 5f & 6f. **FIGURE:** Eight-course. Lovell, with sharp turns, and long straight sections. **COURSE:** 1m 200yds. **ADMISSION:** £10 on A309 near junction 6 of M4. **Stations or Windsor Central (service from London, Paddington) and Windsor railway station (service from London, Waterloo). In River bus stops at course. **ADMISSION:** £10. **Car Park:** E14; Tattersalls E10; E12; Car Park 2 E12; Car Park 3 E12; Car Park 4 E12; Car Park 5 E12; Car Park 6 E12; Car Park 7 E12; Car Park 8 E12; Car Park 9 E12; Car Park 10 E12; Car Park 11 E12; Car Park 12 E12; Car Park 13 E12; Car Park 14 E12; Car Park 15 E12; Car Park 16 E12; Car Park 17 E12; Car Park 18 E12; Car Park 19 E12; Car Park 20 E12; Car Park 21 E12; Car Park 22 E12; Car Park 23 E12; Car Park 24 E12; Car Park 25 E12; Car Park 26 E12; Car Park 27 E12; Car Park 28 E12; Car Park 29 E12; Car Park 30 E12; Car Park 31 E12; Car Park 32 E12; Car Park 33 E12; Car Park 34 E12; Car Park 35 E12; Car Park 36 E12; Car Park 37 E12; Car Park 38 E12; Car Park 39 E12; Car Park 40 E12; Car Park 41 E12; Car Park 42 E12; Car Park 43 E12; Car Park 44 E12; Car Park 45 E12; Car Park 46 E12; Car Park 47 E12; Car Park 48 E12; Car Park 49 E12; Car Park 50 E12; Car Park 51 E12; Car Park 52 E12; Car Park 53 E12; Car Park 54 E12; Car Park 55 E12; Car Park 56 E12; Car Park 57 E12; Car Park 58 E12; Car Park 59 E12; Car Park 60 E12; Car Park 61 E12; Car Park 62 E12; Car Park 63 E12; Car Park 64 E12; Car Park 65 E12; Car Park 66 E12; Car Park 67 E12; Car Park 68 E12; Car Park 69 E12; Car Park 70 E12; Car Park 71 E12; Car Park 72 E12; Car Park 73 E12; Car Park 74 E12; Car Park 75 E12; Car Park 76 E12; Car Park 77 E12; Car Park 78 E12; Car Park 79 E12; Car Park 80 E12; Car Park 81 E12; Car Park 82 E12; Car Park 83 E12; Car Park 84 E12; Car Park 85 E12; Car Park 86 E12; Car Park 87 E12; Car Park 88 E12; Car Park 89 E12; Car Park 90 E12; Car Park 91 E12; Car Park 92 E12; Car Park 93 E12; Car Park 94 E12; Car Park 95 E12; Car Park 96 E12; Car Park 97 E12; Car Park 98 E12; Car Park 99 E12; Car Park 100 E12; Car Park 101 E12; Car Park 102 E12; Car Park 103 E12; Car Park 104 E12; Car Park 105 E12; Car Park 106 E12; Car Park 107 E12; Car Park 108 E12; Car Park 109 E12; Car Park 110 E12; Car Park 111 E12; Car Park 112 E12; Car Park 113 E12; Car Park 114 E12; Car Park 115 E12; Car Park 116 E12; Car Park 117 E12; Car Park 118 E12; Car Park 119 E12; Car Park 120 E12; Car Park 121 E12; Car Park 122 E12; Car Park 123 E12; Car Park 124 E12; Car Park 125 E12; Car Park 126 E12; Car Park 127 E12; Car Park 128 E12; Car Park 129 E12; Car Park 130 E12; Car Park 131 E12; Car Park 132 E12; Car Park 133 E**

Novotna gets her Royal reward

BY JOHN ROBERTS



THE BURNING issue - "What did the Duchess say?" - would not be denied, although reporters almost cancelled each other out in their anxiety to ask it while Jana Novotna was already in full flow answering mundane questions such as bow she had won the title.

Finally, the notebooks and microphones were satisfied. "The Duchess said, 'What was the big thing? I told you last year that, if you make it to the final for the third time, it will be third time lucky'."

Novotna dedicated the championship to her Czech compatriot Hana Mandlikova, her coach and close friend. Mandlikova, a player of such skill and elegance that she could have played with the collected works of Shakespeare on her head, was once asked what the Duchess had said to her after losing to Chris Evert in the 1981 final. "She just told me to go out there and play my own game," Mandlikova replied. She was in fact referring to her coach, Betty Stove, who happened to be Dutch.

Stove, who shared a second Wimbledon disappointment with Mandlikova in 1986, the loss to Martina Navratilova, was herself defeated in the 1977 final of glorious memory by Britain's Virginia Wade. Happily, "The Dutchess" was not overlooked in all the embracing as Novotna and Mandlikova celebrated Saturday's 6-4, 7-6 triumph.

It is not a statistic Wade and Stove will cherish particularly but until yesterday they were the last pair of finalists over 29 (their combined age was 63). Whatever Novotna, 29, and her vanquished French opponent Nathalie Tauziat, 30, proved to themselves during the campaign, it was encouraging for the watching fogeys to know that teenagers do not always get their own way.

There were times when Novotna and Tauziat performed delicious examples of grass-court tennis at its finest, utilising the length and breadth of their wortspace and incorporating net-play as an integral part of the pageant rather than a panic-stricken last resort.

There were more occasions, however, when panic appeared to be the first resort, when nerves on both sides induced the sort of errors common to park players. Rather than a memorable contest it was a trophy waiting to be presented, with an hour and 34 minutes of nail-chewing to be endured before the Duchess of Kent

walked on to the Centre Court confident in the knowledge that her beige suit would avoid another visit to Sketchley.

With due respect to Tauziat, the collective will was for the Duchess to hand the Venus Rosewater Dish to her friend, the former Czech Choker. Not that it was ever going to be as simple and straightforward as that.

The first worry surfaced with evidence that Novotna was wearing a support (even the watching Eddie George could tell that it was not a money belt). It transpired that Novotna was carrying an abdominal strain, and the protector could be seen clearly when she was in the act of serving.

A distraction can be helpful to edgy observers when Novotna is serving, especially on crucial points, such as the one she blew with a double-fault when leading Steffi Graf 4-1 in the third set of the 1993 final. There are times when even her best friends would not feel secure if Novotna served dinner.

On Saturday Novotna's serve was elsewhere, at her home in Antwerp perhaps or left behind by her mother, Libuse, who came out from the Czech Republic on Friday to pay her first-ever visit to a Grand Slam tournament.

Novotna realised that her prospects were likely to be handicapped. "I said to myself 'How do you think you're going to win Wimbledon without a serve?' If I served it, then you can do anything."

A player does not become No 2 in the world rankings, as Novotna will today, without knowing the whereabouts of her serve. "The simple reason for such a low percentage of first serves (50 per cent in the first set) is that I really felt so much pressure coming from Natalie. She was taking the ball very early. If I served a hard serve, she didn't really mind. She can just block the serve and still give you a difficult volley."

Two double faults in the second game were hardly a calming influence. Novotna saving three break points before Tauziat converted a fourth. Novotna broke back immediately and then won the critical seventh game, during which her opponent fended off six break-points.

Having broken in the opening game of the second set, Novotna survived three

double-faults in the second game, only to double-fault for the sixth time to allow Tauziat into the set at 3-3. Novotna broke back immediately again, and served for the match at 5-4.

Ah yes, serving for the match. Novotna's deliveries may have lacked conviction, but there were no faults except in open play, Tauziat's expertise conspiring with her opponent's errors. The Frenchwoman

pounced on her third break point with a powerful forehand.

When it came to the tie-break, Novotna appeared to relax (if the prospect of a third set was looming, why worry?). Consequently her serve ceased to be a problem; her overall performance was more effective, and her dream was fulfilled when she won the shoot-out 7-2.

Relief from the tension gave way to unbridled emotion, which reverberated around the arena. Novotna, escorted by a gallant member of the Army PT Corps, dashed to hug family and friends in the players' guest box (steps have replaced beads since Pat Cash scaled the crowd in 1987).

When Novotna returned to the court the Duchess greeted her by saying, "I am so proud of you," words which were easy to lip-read, and the joyful din rose to a crescendo. The Rt Hon Betty Boothroyd, far from tempted to shout "Order! Order!" from the Royal Box, was delighted to stand up and join in the ovation.

Having broken in the opening game of the second set, Novotna survived three



The determination shows as Novotna wins a vital point

Robert Hallam

RESULTS FROM WIMBLEDON

MEN'S SINGLES

Holders: P Sampras (USA)
Final: P SAMPRAS (1) (USA) br G IVANISEVIC (Croat)

Holder: M Hingis (Switzerland)
Final: J NOVOTNA (3) (Czech Rep) br N TAUZIAT (France)

MEN'S DOUBLES
Holders: T Woodbridge and M Woodforde (Aus)
Final: E DITTRICH and P HAARHUIS (Neth) br T WOODBRIDGE and M WOODFORDE (Aus)

WOMEN'S DOUBLES
Holders: J Fernandez (USA) and N Date (Japan)
Final: J NOVOTNA (3) (Czech Rep) and N ZVEREVA (Slovakia)

WOMEN'S DOUBLES
Holders: J Fernandez (USA) and N Date (Japan)
Final: J NOVOTNA (3) (Czech Rep) and N ZVEREVA (Slovakia)

MIXED DOUBLES

Holders: C Sul and H Sukova (Czech Rep)

Semi-Finals

M BHUPATHI (India) and M LUCIC (Croat) br J Gimelstob and V Williams (USA) 6-3 7-5

M Mirnyi (Belarus) and S Williams (USA) 6-3 7-5

Final

M Mirnyi (Belarus) and S Williams (USA) br M BHUPATHI (India) and M LUCIC (Croat) 6-4 6-4

MEN'S OVER-35 DOUBLES

Holders: M Bates (GBR) and R Krishnamoorthy (Ind)

Final

G Mayer and T Wilkeson (USA) br G Donnelly (USA) and D Visser (USA) 6-4 6-4

WOMEN'S OVER-35 DOUBLES

Holders: J Darle (GBR) and A Smith (USA)

Final

P Shriver (USA) and P Smylie (USA) br J Durie (GBR) and A Smith (USA) 6-3 6-4 6-3

BOYS' SINGLES

Holders: J Darle (GBR) and A Smith (USA)

Semi-Finals

R Federer (Swe) br L Zverko (Croat) 7-5 6-2

L Danilov (USA) and N Zvereva (Slovakia)

M Hingis (Switzerland) and N Zvereva (Slovakia)

Final

E Dyrberg (Den) and J Kostanic (Croat) 7-5 6-2

J Kostanic (Croat) and N Zvereva (Slovakia)

BOYS' DOUBLES

Holders: J Darle (GBR) and A Smith (USA)

Semi-Finals

R Federer (Swe) br L Zverko (Croat) 7-5 6-2

L Danilov (USA) and N Zvereva (Slovakia)

Final

E Dyrberg (Den) and J Kostanic (Croat) 7-5 6-2

J Kostanic (Croat) and N Zvereva (Slovakia)

GIrls' SINGLES

Holders: J Fernandez (USA) and N Date (Japan)

Semi-Finals

R Federer (Swe) br L Zverko (Croat) 7-5 6-2

L Danilov (USA) and N Zvereva (Slovakia)

Final

E Dyrberg (Den) and J Kostanic (Croat) 7-5 6-2

J Kostanic (Croat) and N Zvereva (Slovakia)

Seeded players in capitals

GIRLS' SINGLES

Semi-Finals

K Srebotnik (Slovenia) br T Hercog (Slovenia) 6-3 6-3

K Clijsters (Bel) br J Dokic (Australia) 6-3 6-3

Final

K Srebotnik (Slovenia) br K Clijsters (Bel) 6-4

BOYS' DOUBLES

Holders: M Bates (GBR) and R Krishnamoorthy (Ind)

Final

R Federer (Swe) and D Rochus (Bel) br K Clijsters (Bel) and J Dokic (Australia) 6-3 6-3

GIrls' DOUBLES

Holders: J Fernandez (USA) and N Date (Japan)

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R Federer (Swe) br L Zverko (Croat) 7-5 6-2

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L Danilov (USA) and N Zvereva (Slovakia)

Final

R Federer (Swe) and D Rochus (Bel) 6-3 6-3

L Danilov (USA) and N Zvereva (Slovakia)

GIrls' DOUBLES

Holders: J Fernandez (USA) and N

Germany feel the effects of age concern

THERE WILL be hell to pay in Germany after their heavy World Cup quarter-final defeat by Croatia. They are not used to losing at this stage of the competition and certainly not by three goals. They just won't accept it - it was a savage blow to German pride.

Inevitably there will be a rush now to cast Berti Vogts out from his job as national team manager but that is not such a wise thing. Maybe it was an achievement to get to the last eight with a team of ageing players who really should have been finished years ago. You look at the likes of Lothar Matthäus, brought back at the age of 37, and you can't help but think that Germany should have been producing replacements by now.

I never considered them as likely winners this time round - even



JACK CHARLTON

though their record makes it hard to dismiss them outright. From day one they looked a team of too much experience and not enough legs.

Germany's disappointment was Croatia's glory. What a fantastic achievement for them, a new

country in their first World Cup and now facing the hosts for a place in the final. The Croatians are not averse to a physical scrap and why not? The game is such now that you can't go round kicking people and you can't tackle from behind but you can push people into areas where they can't do any damage, you can obstruct them, you can be strong on the ball and you can close people down. The Croatians are good at all those things.

It always surprises me that the old Yugoslavia never won anything considering the talent they had at their disposal. Now that country has broken up, the individual components are showing what they can do. There's no doubt that one reason for the Croatian success is their fantastic team spirit, the togetherness forged from the brutality of civil war.

Obviously the red card shown to Christian Wörns disrupted the Germans, it looked a worse challenge than it really was; the slow motion replay always has that effect and it was probably a genuine attempt to get the ball only for Davor Šuker to arrive a fraction ahead of him.

Facing 10 men, Croatian had the players to exploit the situation and in Šuker they have a tremendous finisher. He had a terrific 1996 European Championships and has not done so well at Real Madrid as he should have done (to be fair he's been unlucky with injuries) but you cannot afford to take your eyes off him at any time.

The Netherlands v Argentina quarter-final was a marvellous contest of technical skills and improvisation. The conditions suited the Dutch, the beat of a Marseilles

afternoon combined with the fact that Argentina had an exhausting struggle against England - it always takes you three to four days to get over a game like that. When Ireland played the Netherlands in the second round in 1994 in Orlando they ran us to death, the sweltering temperatures helped their passing game much more than it did our running game. The Dutch have limited movement but when they do move it is fresh, quick and deadly.

Dennis Bergkamp's winner was a masterpiece of touch and composure late in the game. Along with Michael Owen's effort it will be remembered as the goal of the World Cup. Owen had to run a long distance with the ball while Bergkamp was a piece of sublime skill at the end of a move and for that reason Owen's was probably the greater effort.

I would like to see the Dutch go on now and upset Brazil in the semi-final and if there's a team to do it's them. We certainly don't want the South Americans to come out as champions again and leave us with another four years of listening to the suggestion that they are so much better than us.

I still think Europe is stronger - just look at the semi-final line-up which shows Europe filling three of the four places while Denmark ran Brazil very close for the other. The Danes showed again that if you get at the Brazilians they can be found wanting at the back.

Ronaldo is playing a clever game by dropping deep and enabling players such as Rivaldo to run into the penalty box knowing he will supply them with the ball; against Denmark Ronaldo laid on both first-half goals.

Because I tipped them I would like to see the French crowned as champions. But, more than that, I would like to see it go to the Dutch. They have come so close before and have brought so many good things to the game over a long period of time.

Croatians make the most of red gift

BY ADAM SZRETER
at Stade Gerland, Lyons

Germany	0
Croatia	3
Jarni 45, Vlaovic 80, Šuker 85	
Att: 39,100	

NOT FOR the first time in this tournament, an evenly balanced tie was decided by the arbitrary brandishing of a red card. In this case it was Germany who suffered but, as in the previous quarter-final between these two sides, at Euro 96, it was something of a lottery as to who would fall foul of the referee first.

Nevertheless it was, as their coach Miroslav Blazevic rightly pointed out, an historic victory for Croatia over a team who have quickly become arch-rivals in the six years since Croatia regained independence and were readmitted to Fifa, world football's inner circle. Not many people took much notice of Blazevic's prediction at the outset that his team would reach the final, but now only France stand in their way. The hosts will be short odds favourites on Wednesday at the Stade de France, but the French are only too well aware that anything can happen in a semi-final.

France lost twice to Germany in World Cup semi-finals in the 1980s, most famously in Seville in 1982 after they led 3-1, so they will be more than happy to be meeting the Croats. They may be something of an unknown quantity but at least there will be no inferiority complex on the part of the French, who are already looking forward to their dream final with Brazil.

On Saturday, Croatia took full advantage of any luck that was going their way, especially when the

German defender Christian Wörns was dismissed shortly before half-time for a reckless challenge on Davor Šuker. The Germans complained, of course. "It was completely unjustified," said their former captain, Lothar Matthäus, at the end of his fifth appearance in a World Cup finals, a record for an outfield player.

The referee should have consulted his linesman, who must have seen that Wörns was not the last line of defence but that Jürgen Kohler was behind him. That may have been true, but the red card appeared to be for the nature of the tackle rather than the particular context. The Norwegian referee's real mistake came four minutes earlier when he failed to take any action at all against Igor Stimac - sent off in the Euro 96 quarter-final - whose crude tackle from behind on Oliver Bierhoff set off a chain reaction of wild challenges.

Up to that point Germany had played some of their best football of the tournament and looked the more likely to score but, after losing a player, many consider to have been their best in this World Cup, it was always going to be difficult to recover. Robert Jarni's goal in first-half injury time kicked the Germans while they were still down and then it was just a question of whether Croatia could keep their discipline, and not give the referee an excuse to even up the red cards, and they would be borne and dry.

Bierhoff came closest to an equaliser for Germany with a volley from Klimanov's headed near-post flick that Drazen Ladje just about parried on the line, before Goran Vlaovic and Šuker applied the finishing touches, sparking unheralded scenes of Croat jubilation in the streets of Lyons, which for a time



Croatia's Ajosha Asanovic curls a free-kick round the German wall in Saturday's quarter-final in Lyons

AP

might easily have been Zagreb on independence day.

Support for Croatia inside the Stade Gerland seemed to outnumber support for Germany, and while many of those who have been Frenchmen praying for a German defeat there were still plenty who had made the long road trip from the Balkans, having spent any savings they may have had from an average salary of £125 per month.

Blazevic looked pale and drawn in the post-match press conference, struggling to find words to describe his emotions. "We are overjoyed," he

eventually said. "We are very proud that we're going to play in the most beautiful stadium in the world in front of 80,000 spectators. That will be a new test for us but today we showed our capabilities. We really deserved this win."

As for the Germans, it is the end of a long and largely successful era. Klinsmann, Kohler, Matthäus and Hässler - all survivors of the team that won the 1990 World Cup - will not be back, but it remains to be seen whether Berti Vogts will stay in charge. There is unlikely to be the same public demand for his

resignation as there was following the defeat by Bulgaria at the same stage four years ago - he has probably done the best he could with dwindling resources. Whether Vogts wants to stay and oversee a period of considerable reconstruction in German football is another matter, but those who know him believe he will.

Vogts has argued for years that with so many foreign players in the Bundesliga, the day would come when the international cupboard would be bare for Germany. Now it seems that day has come. Virtually their entire Under-21 side is made

up of reserves who rarely get a first-team game for their clubs, and when Andreas Möller failed to live up to expectations early in the tournament Vogts was left with only players like Jens Jeremies and Dietmar Hamann, who lacked both experience and class at the highest level.

No doubt the Germans will come again, and quickly, but for the moment there is a new star rising in central Europe. For many of the Croatian team, who have been there since the start, this will be their first and last World Cup, but there are promising youngsters coming through such as

Dario Simic, Igor Tudor and Anthony Seric. As for Blazevic - the man they call Ciro after a train that runs from his birthplace in Bosnia to Croatia - whatever happens in Paris, he will always have Lyons.

CROATIA (3-5-2): Ledić (Croatia Zagreb); Bišćević (Everton), Šimac (Derviši, Split), Šimac (Croatia Zagreb), Čebar (Parma), Šimić (VfB Stuttgart), Asanović (Aston Villa), Šuker (Real Madrid), Šimić (Napoli), Šimić (Sparta Prague), Šimić (Bari), Vlaović (Valencia), Šuker (Real Madrid). Substitutes: Marko (Croatia Zagreb) for Vlaović, 83.

GERMANY (3-4-3): Kappa (Marseille), Wörns (Leeds United), Müller (Bayer Leverkusen), Kohler (Borussia Dortmund), Hässler (Borussia Mönchengladbach), Jeremies (Bayern Munich), Hamann (Hannover 96), Kehl (Kaiserslautern), Klose (VfB Stuttgart), Blaszczykowski (Leeds United), Kohler (Hannover 96), Marschall (Kaiserslautern). For Referee: R Pedersen (Norway).

A slave to the irresistible passion play known as the World Cup



ANDY MARTIN
AT LARGE IN FRANCE



LYONS, CITY OF dreams, city of nightmares. England get through to the next round, but then they are beaten 6-0 by the Dutch, then they are embroiled in a homosexual scandal involving Italy, and finally I am arrested defending the honour of the nation after a smirking waiter casts aspersions on my manhood.

A night, in short, of fevered fantasies, not quite as absurd as Croatia eliminating Germany 3-0. Sometimes I am appalled by the tabloid extremism of my unconscious. But the lunatic scenes of triumph and disaster that are nightly enacted there can barely keep up with the real emotional mayhem of the World Cup. And a lot of the World Cup is taken up in any case with fantasy football, all those "what-if" and "if-only" stories.

I admit I really did want to rearrange the face of that waiter, though, some hours earlier. It wasn't so much that I was starving and there was supposedly not a crumb left in the larder of this entire vast cafe in the Place Bellecour at 5pm. It was the way he said it, with a grinning schadenfreude and some ironic remark about: "This is France - what do you expect?" I was tempted

to knock the silver tray out of his hand, and then I called him something I remember Eric Cantona calling the French manager in the midst of some acrimonious dispute. That wiped the smile off his face.

It was definitely a red-card offence, but this may be one of the rare occasions on which Cantona has actually prevented an incident.

Some passing honourable Croat fans (actually Anglo-Indian and West Ham supporters) were saying something similar about the German team on their way to the stadium. Therein lies the compulsion of football: it supplies us with a manual of heightened emotions and modes of self-expression.

Lyon has some claim on being the capital of the passions. I was reminded, while sitting at the Passion Sports Cafe opposite the Opéra, that it was here that Charles Fourier, utopian dreamer and philosopher of "passional attraction", was born a couple of centuries ago. All that is now commonly remembered of him is that he thought that the sea would turn into lemonade in the ideal world of the future. But Fourier's main claim on our attention is his insight that human beings are essentially slaves of passion. He defined 14 basic passions (including, notably, the *passion popillon* - the butterfly passion - that requires a multiplicity of feelings), but there were something like 629 possible variations on these themes.

Like Freud almost a hundred years later, Fourier saw that

civilisation was based on the repression of the passions. Unlike Freud though, he also thought that the solution to all our problems was to find a way of openly expressing our instinctive drives. Which is how he came up with the beautiful idea of the *phalanstery*, an optimist community in which there are no losers, and everyone's desires are satisfied.

According to Fourier, the *phalanstery* would offer - amongst other pleasures - gastroomic olympics, in which the winner of the padisserie gold medal is cheered to a thousand champagne corks popping, and "philanthropic associations" providing a sexual emergency call-out service to those left unsatiated by officially sanctioned promiscuity and frequent public orgies.

Despite some heroic efforts in France and America, Fourier's vision never quite panned out in practice. But this World Cup is probably the closest we've yet come to a short-term *phalanstery*. In lots of ways, of course, it isn't: nearly everyone is, in the end, a loser and the major emotions are frustration and an overriding sense of injustice. Yet I can personally testify to running through a gamut of approximately a hundred

THE GLOBAL GAME

THE WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

"THEY ARE now unofficially the 'Cardiac Kids' of this World Cup. The Netherlands, locked in a tense 1-1 deadlock against dangerously talented Argentina, appeared to be careening toward overtime and, possibly, tortuous penalty kicks. But, as they did in their round-of-16 match against Yugoslavia, the Dutch executed a shocking end. Veteran striker Dennis Bergkamp scored the game-winner in the 90th minute for a 2-1 victory that sent the orange sea of Dutch supporters into a mad celebration and the favored Argentines staggering back home to South America. Both Holland goals were pieces of rare art. The first, a Patrick Kluivert goal that gave the Dutch a 1-0 lead, was born from remarkable teamwork. The gamer by Bergkamp, his third of the tournament, was a thing of individual beauty. As if catching a bat cup of tea out of the air with his feet without spilling a drop, Bergkamp gingerly settled a long ball from team-mate Frank de Boer as he crossed into the penalty area. Bergkamp then faded going wide, leaving Roberto Ayala stumbling toward the Mediterranean Sea and out of the play. Bergkamp whirled toward the inside and sent a shot off the outside of his right foot knuckling

past Carlos Roa and into the net for the improbable 2-1 lead." - *New York Post*.

"A handsome and memorable exit... Denmark took part in creating a thriller... a match which, with a spoonful of luck, could have turned into a triumph. Denmark were the first in this tournament to challenge the Brazilians on their terms, playing a technical game with smart and quick combinations. The Danes' daring and uncompromising challenge made the encounter one of the best in the tournament." - *Politiken*, Copenhagen, after Denmark's quarter-final defeat to Brazil on Friday.

"With all due respect for a constantly heroic and at times glorious playing Danish national team, it was not enough. But it is no shame that it did not suffice because Brazil were better, and they were forced to play at the outer limits of their skills to snatch the 3-2 victory and the berth in the semi-finals." - *Berlingske Tidende*, Copenhagen.

"It turned into a wistful 'au revoir', but with dignity and pride." - *Jyllands-Posten*, Copenhagen.

Lyons, 6 July 1998

England must keep football in perspective

WHEN THE Yugoslav wars were at their most intense I wondered about Zdravko Reic. If more acquaintance than friend, a fellow-toiler in this sporting life, I first came across him more than 35 years ago at a European Cup Winners cup semi-final between OFK Belgrade and Tottenham Hotspur.

A proud Croat from the port of Split, I had last seen him there during the 1990 European Athletic Championships shortly before the outbreak of hostilities that resulted from Croatia's declaration of independence.

Subsequent inquiries brought no news of Reic. Then I saw him coming towards me at Wembley during Euro 96, a smile on his Slavic features, arms wide to embrace. "So Jones, we are still here," he chuckled.



KEN JONES

Last week I saw Reic again. It was shortly before England's match against Argentina, and he was sitting with a group of compatriots after watching Croatia defeat Romania on television to qualify for a World Cup quarter-final against Germany.

In speaking about Croatia's chances Reic showed no great excitement. "Perhaps this time things will work out better for us," he said, meaning the 2-1 quarter-final loss to Germany in Euro 96 when Igor Stimac of Derby County was sent off for two bookable offences and Croatia were refused legitimate claims for a second-half penalty.

I looked closely at Reic seeking some evidence of suppressed emotion. "But to be in the last four of the World Cup would be a great thing for your country," I said. "Of course it would," Reic replied calmly, "but the terrible things we have been through, the struggle to be ourselves after so many years [Croatia has been a truly independent state for more than 500 years] keeps football in perspective. It is a game not life itself."

Puzzling perhaps for the investigators of English hyperbole, Reic did not speak of revenge or robbery. "What happened two years ago was disappointing but day followed night," he shrugged.

Although I have not been able to contact Reic since Croatia eliminated Germany in Lyon on Saturday, putting three goals past a team that could no longer compensate with heart for the ageing process, it would be surprising to discover that his philosophy has altered.

Something similar occurs to me about the French whose emotions were again stretched to the limit by a penalty shoot-out against Italy at the Stade de France in St Denis. Some time afterwards, waiting for a train out of the city I watched hundreds of French supporters celebrating noisily. Later that night, and

long into it, cars were racing through Chantilly, tricolores streaming, klaxons blasting.

Daylight brought a return to normality. People went about their business as though the previous night's excitement hadn't happened. Not a flag flew on the streets. "A great night for France," I said to a man sitting nearby beneath the awning of a pavement bistro. "Yes, but it is only football," he said. "If France win it will be fine but the excitement is only temporary."

This contrasts sharply with the impression England have left here, one of a nation so unhealthily besotted with football that little else matters.

Towards the end of last week many calls were taken by this and other newspapers from people seeking confirmation of a rumour that

four Argentinian players (only two members of each team give samples) had tested positive for drugs after defeating England. Apparently there was a note of desperation in the voices as though England's failure could only be the result of Argentinian dishonesty.

The Football Association chair-

man, Keith Wiseman, has since

stated that England will win the

World Cup under Glenn Hoddle.

Maybe Hoddle will pull it off but

there is little in England's record to

justify the absence of equivocation

from Wiseman's statement.

To my mind England's chances of success would be greatly improved if the nation that gave football to the world was less arrogant in assumption. Better to accept the proof of almost five decades and go about things accordingly.

This may be going over old ground but one victory and only one other appearance in the semi-finals hardly supports the stature English football and its publicists like to claim.

The loss to Romania prevented England from topping their group and avoiding the hardest part of the draw. But for that they might still be in contention.

It would be encouraging to think that English football will acquire a new sense of reality that people will come to accept the game for what it really is, not, with inevitable consequences, an all-consuming passion.

Success in sport can lift the morale of countries and communities. But as Reic knows all too well, win or lose against France on Wednesday, it's only a game.

Dutch inspired by Bergkamp's improvisation

BY PHIL SHAW
at Stade Vélodrome, Marseilles

Argentina 1
Lopez 18
Netherlands 2
Kluivert 12, Bergkamp 90
Att: 55,000

FOR A nation which has done more than most to take football into the future, the Dutch preoccupation with the past is sometimes surprising. Dennis Bergkamp's wondrous winning goal went a long way towards purging one painful memory, while highlighting a precedent to inspire them in the semi-final against Brazil and beyond.

As a venue where pedal power once vied with the muddied power of Marseilles for popular support, the Stade Vélodrome was an oddly appropriate setting for a demonstration of the cyclical nature of the game. For it was exactly 20 years ago that the Netherlands' Rob Rensenbrink rattled the Argentinian post in the dying moments of normal time in the World Cup final.

The score, as on Saturday, stood at 1-1 yet Argentina scored twice in extra time to condemn the Dutch to a second successive defeat in the greatest showpiece of all. How sweet, then, the symmetry and the symbolism of Bergkamp's coup de grâce, some 89 minutes and 26 seconds into an absorbing and occasionally brutal struggle for the

right to challenge the world champions.

That the English footballer of the year was so fresh and focused at such a late stage, and in debilitating heat, may not have been entirely unrelated to the fact that injury and suspension forced him to sit out a sizeable chunk of Arsenal's attritional season. The same was true of Patrick Kluivert, his partner and fellow marksman, who also appears to be growing stronger as the tournament progresses following months of relative inactivity at Milan.

Those in the Orange camp seeking hope from history are already seeing similarities between their strikers' renewed vigour and that of Marco van Basten 10 summers ago. Emerging from a winter of enforced rest, he redefined centre-forward play as the class of Gullit, Rijkaard and Koeman swept to European Championship triumph.

Enough, though, of 1978 and '90. The portents from France 98 are promising enough for Guus Hiddink's team. While conditions here may not have been ideal for producing pace and mobility to complement their scintillating technique, when it comes to repetitive passing to feet no one does it better.

As if to underline their improvisational powers, both Dutch goals stemmed from flighted balls. For the first, Ronald de Boer chipped forward for the stooping Bergkamp to angle a beautifully cushioned header into the path of Kluivert. The second came from a

After Claudio Lopez's equaliser had exposed the folly of playing for off-sides in a competition brimming with quick attackers, the dismissals of Artur Numan and Ariel Ortega left two depicted sides facing an additional half hour. For Argentina, already jaded from 120 minutes against England, it was an arduous prospect.

Bergkamp spared them the trouble. Bringing down a long pass by Frank de Boer with one touch, he cut inside Roberto Ayala with another before deftly guiding the ball beyond Carlos Roa. His 36th goal for the Netherlands, in only 62 games, also made him their record scorer.

Numan had been expelled with 14 minutes left for a bad foul on David Beckham's nemesis, Diego Simeone. His victim's triple sauté gave Rangers' new captain cause for complaint: the referee's leniency towards Edgar Davids, who fouled routinely throughout a display of lung-bursting industry, perhaps another

Ortega's exit, which proved decisive in a way he could never have imagined, came three minutes from time. Having been clattered from pillar to post, he pushed the ball past Jaap Stam and buried himself to the floor in the hope of gaining a penalty. Sefer Brizio Carter ran over to show him the yellow card, only for the Argentinian to smash his head into Edwin van der Sar's chin as he rose.

Suddenly, the argument over whether Stam had made contact became academic: if he did, the undind thought occurred, it was a first in

these finals for Manchester United's £10,500 defender. Ortega became the Mexican official's fifth red card of the finals, although, if Van der Sar had not been so keen to put in his two guilders' worth, the "new Maradona" would merely have been cautioned.

During the 10 minutes in which it was 10 against 11, Kluivert was left to forage alone. Hiddink was now able to return to a front two, with devastating consequences. Johan Cruyff has complained that the new generation lack the "fantasy" of the

"Total Football" era. However, goals do not come much more fantastic than Bergkamp's. Marc Overmars was reminded of a finish of similar virtuosity by his Highbury colleague last August. Then the winger reflected: "Scoring like that at Leices-

ter is one thing. Doing it in a World Cup quarter-final is something else."

Overmars admitted that the leg injury which restricted him to a cameo role meant he would "almost certainly" miss the semi-final that would have made an epic final. Hiddink, mindful that Brazil will be

without their suspended right-back Cafu, may have other ideas.

The Dutch are a better balanced and less divided side than USA 94, when Brazil squeezed past them 3-2. Where they may prove vulnerable is the way their system often evolves into 2-6-2, exposing the centre-backs, though the evening kick-off should ensure that the South Americans enjoy no aid from the elements.

With young players of the calibre of Juan Veron, Lopez and Ortega - whose treatment was a black mark on the Orange canvas - Argentina

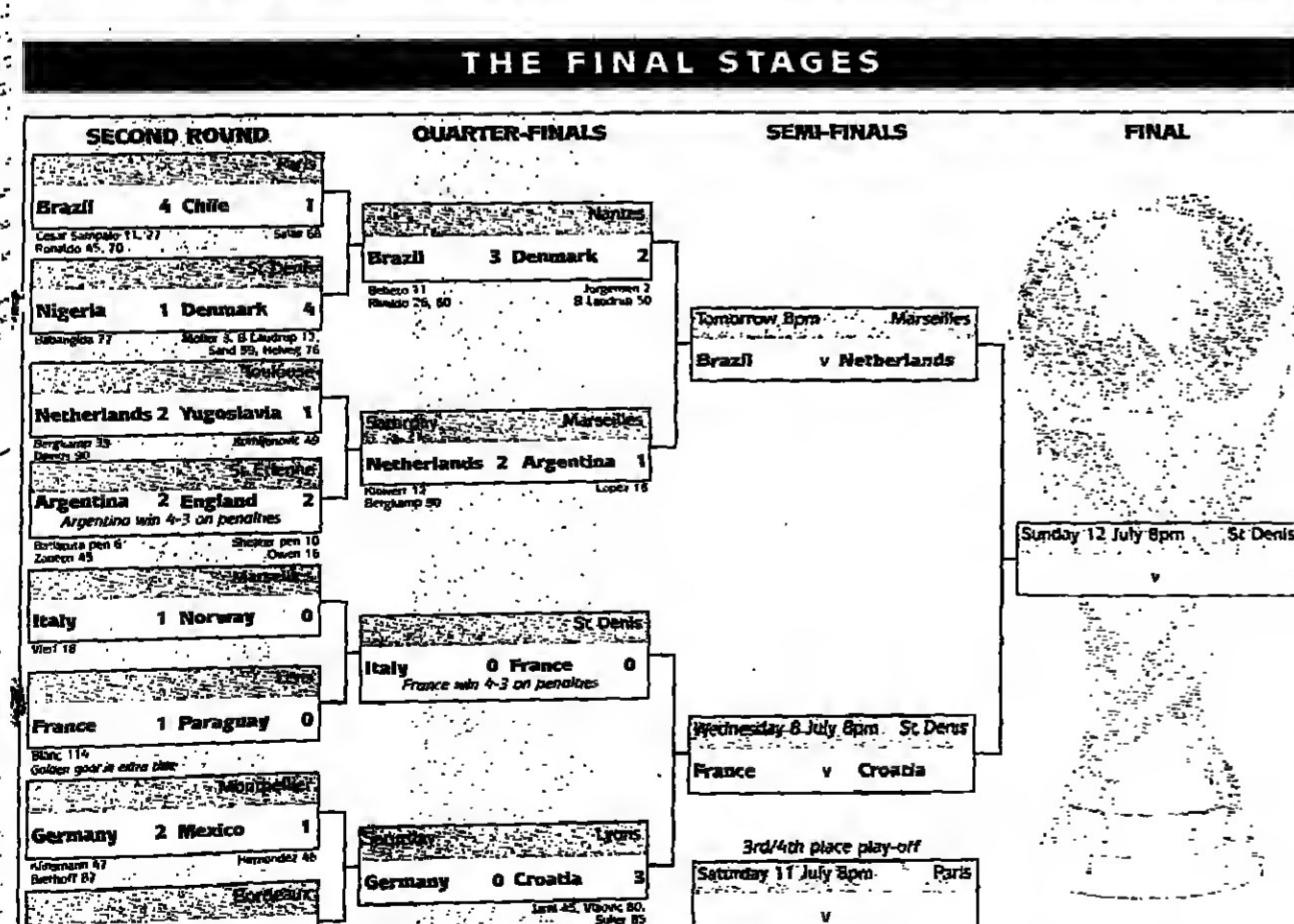
should be a real force by 2002. Their week had started amid talk of old foes seeking retribution for a past grievance. When pay-back time came, the country the French call Les Pays-Bas were the beneficiaries.

NETHERLANDS (4-1-2-1): Van der Sar (Man); De Boer (Man), Stam (PSV Eindhoven), De Boer (Man), Ridders (PSV Eindhoven), R de Boer (Ajax), Zeeck (PSV Eindhoven), Davids (Juventus), Brizio Carter (Arsenal), Kluivert (Milan), Stam (Milan), Overmars (Arsenal) for R de Boer, 64.

ARGENTINA (3-4-1-2): Basile (Real Madrid); Gómez (Real Madrid), Simeone (Napoli), Charone (Lazio), Zárate (Internazionale), Almeyda (Lazio), Verón (Napoli), Verón (Real Madrid), Caputo (Parma), Sotomayor (Parma) (Udinese), Balbo (Roma) for Charone, 90. Referee: A Brizio Carter (Mexico).



Dennis Bergkamp wheels away in ecstasy after scoring the winning goal against Argentina on Saturday Ricardo Mazalan/AP

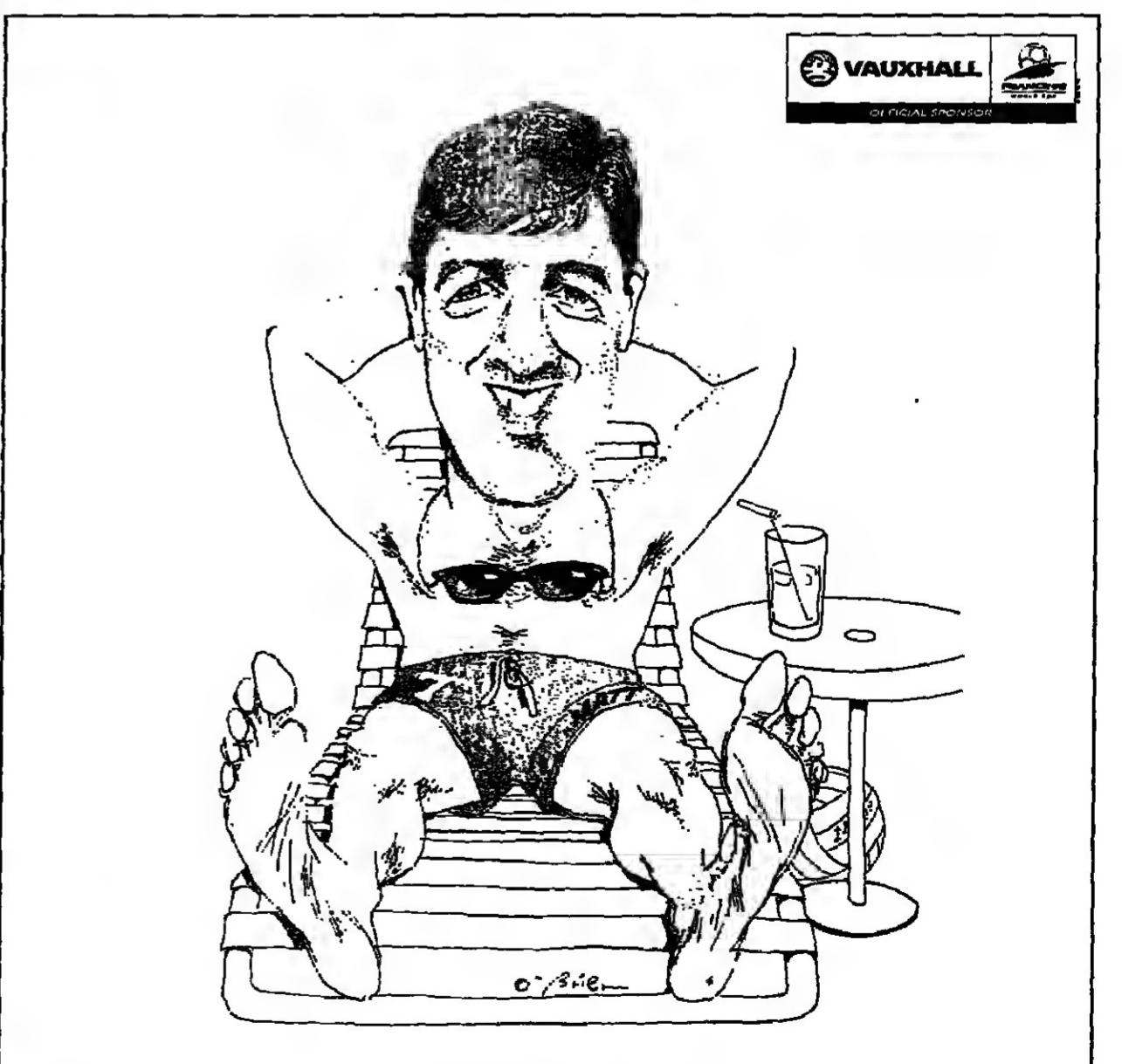


SATURDAY'S MATCHES	
Netherlands 2 Goals: Kluivert 12	Argentina 1 Goals: Lopez 18
Yellow cards: 1 Red cards: 0 Corners: 7 Offside: 22 Fouls: 22 Coach: Guus Hiddink	Yellow cards: 1 Red cards: 0 Corners: 10 Offside: 10 Fouls: 14 Coach: 1
Germany 0 Goals: 0 Yellow cards: Heinrich, Tarnat Red cards: Wörm Corners: 10 Offside: 2 Fouls: 23 Coach: Berti Vogts	Croatia 3 Goals: Jarić 45, Vlaović 80, Šuker 85, Šimčić, Šuker Yellow cards: 1 Red cards: 0 Corners: 5 Offside: 31 Fouls: 14 Coach: Miroslav Blažević

TOP SCORERS	
FIVE GOALS	Cesar Sampiero (Brazil); Arthur Numan (Neth); Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina)
FOUR GOALS	Davor Šuker (Croat); Marcelo Salas (Chile); Luis Hernández (Mexico)
THREE GOALS	Terry Henry (France); Cesar Sampiero (Brazil); Ronaldinho (Brazil); Roberto Baget (Ita); Štefan Červinka (Cze); Fernando Hierro (Spa); Francisco Martínez (Spa); Klose (Spa); Alvaro Recoba (Uruguay); Raúl (Spa); Miroslav Klose (Ger); Oliver Bierhoff (Germany); Dennis Bergkamp (Netherlands)
TWO GOALS	Alan Shearer (Eng); Michael Owen (Eng); Adriano (Bra); Sérgio (Bra); Roberto Soriano (Ita); Štefan Červinka (Cze); Fernando Hierro (Spa); Francisco Martínez (Spa); Phillip Cocu (Neth); Stéphane Guivarc'h (Fra); Jérôme Rothen (Fra); Iván Ramírez (Col); Ricardo Palmeiro (Mex); Werbel Meléndez (Ron); Ariel Ortega (Arg); Theofanis Gekas (Greece); Brian Laudrup (Den)

CARDS	
SUSPENDED	Cesar Sampiero (Brazil); Arthur Numan (Neth); Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina)
YELLOW CARDS	Players in semi-finals on one yellow card: Leonardo, Aldair, Roberto Carlos (Brazil); Didier Deschamps, Stephane Guivarc'h (France); Jaap Stam (Netherlands); Steven Belec, Zvjezdan Boban, Davor Šuker, Đorđe Stanic (Croat)
RED CARDS	None
TO WIN OUTRIGHT	Netherlands — C H L T Brazil — 64 13-8 64 11-8 France — 15-2 15-8 1 2-1 Netherlands — 52 9-4 52 11-4 Croatia — 1-1 14-1 7-1 10-1 C. Corl. H. Wilson Hill, L. Lubcke, T. Lee

NOT GOING TO THE WORLD CUP THIS SUMMER?
LET VAUXHALL BRING IT TO YOU.



Third Test: Captains past and present compile double-century partnership to give England hope of avoiding defeat

Stewart leads the salvage operation

By DEREK PRINGLE
at Old TraffordSouth Africa 552-5 dec
England 187 & 211-2

AT LAST in this Cornhill Test match, a whole day that belonged to England, the first since their domination of the first Test at Edgbaston. For once it was a fightback every bit worthy of the name, and Atherton and Stewart's unbeaten partnership of 200 cannot have failed to warm those who braved a cold and windy Old Trafford. Who knows, another six hours of the same and it could be South Africa who leave Old Trafford disillusioned.

Led by their captain, Alec Stewart, who scored his 11th Test century, and abetted by Michael Atherton, unbeaten on 81, England have undoubtedly given themselves a slender chance of saving this match, though the second new ball, just six deliveries old, will have to be annulled before a repeat of Johannesburg can be countenanced. Of course Graham Thorpe's back spasm will not help matters but South Africa may well have to do without the services of Lance Klusener, who has a foot injury.

Stewart, his concentration honed by accountability, scored by far his highest Test score at this ground. The England captain does not like to be subdued by either bowler or situation. But despite being cautious, he still outscored Atherton, who became haled towards the end of the day, which was curtailed 10 minutes from the end of the play by bad light.

It wasn't all trench warfare and both players booked and drove when the opportunity presented itself. A brace of boundaries off Paul Adams, brought up Atherton's half-century. Later, a full toss off the same bowler allowed Stewart to post his first three-figure score as captain.

England's cricket has got a bad press these last few days, and when England, following on 369 runs behind, found themselves 11 for 2 in their second innings, thoughts were being cleared ready for the executioner's song.

Sporting miracles are what the English public really live off, the improbability of glory without winning, of face saving against the odds. Not for us the dependability of the Germans or the sometimes numbing efficiency of South Africa. No,



South Africa's captain, Hansie Cronje, takes evasive action as his opposite number, Alec Stewart, hits out his unbroken third-wicket stand with Mike Atherton yesterday

Peter Jay

we like our sporting teams and individuals to be flawed.

Which is probably why when Stewart and Atherton started putting together a near flawless rearguard display, the crowd went fairly quiet. Perhaps they decided to watch for a while. If they did they will once again have noticed how England seem to save their most persuasive cricket once the match is no longer winnable.

It appears to happen so often that by now, just about everyone

will have a theory. This correspondent's is that overseas, the emphasis in all forms of cricket is on the first innings. Consequently, their batsmen learn the importance of making runs early in the game, a habit also impressed upon them by having less high profile matches.

In England, especially in the County Championship, far more significance is placed on the denouement of a match than the early stages. Waiting for the endgame to come along

often by means of token declarations, has always been more important than creating a match winning situation from the outset. The thinking goes, if you do lose, another opportunity will present itself a few days later.

But if the long-ingrained ills of the domestic game have left its effect on England, South Africa, considering their overwhelming advantage, were hardly dynamic in the field. On a pitch now exhibiting the odd vagary, Hansie Cronje seemed

shy to attack and several edges flew through a slip area rarely populated by more than two catchers.

Paul Adams, such a handful at Lord's, bowed almost exclusively outside the wicket with the rough outside the right-hander's leg-stump. When he did go round, he immediately spun one past Stewart's bat, though by then the batsman was set.

Resuming their first innings at 162 for 8, England's tail did not linger long. Once Darren Gough had heaved Adams straight up in the air, the innings ended when Angus Fraser was adjudged lbw to his Middlesex colleague, Jacques Kallis. Quite simply, it was a howler and the fourth dubious decision of the innings.

In such circumstances it is

easy for paranoia to set in and when England began hating again, still a long way in arrears of their opponent's huge first-innings score, many expected a rout by tea.

Under glooming skies, the prophecy looked like being fulfilled, as Donald struck decisively in his third over of the morning, removing his Warwickshire team-mate Nick Knight for the second time in the match.

Faced with a strong nor'wester, Cronje decided to part Donald with Kallis, instead of the effervescent Makhaya Ntini. The all-rounder's swingers, which proved so decisive at Lord's,

had also claimed England's captain in the first innings here.

With Kallis once more getting the ball to swing away late at pace, dismissals were always likely and it wasn't long before he removed Nasser Hussain's off-stump with a beauty.

Happily for those claiming that England cricket is not in crisis a reprieve arrived. If it continues throughout today, it won't just be those in the terraces whistling the theme tune to "The Great Escape".

Knight's poor technique exposed

By HENRY BLOFELD

MICHAEL ATHERTON and Alec Stewart, captains past and present, showed on the fourth afternoon what England might have done earlier in the match. Their stand gave England a glimmer of hope that the Third Test could still be saved just as Stewart and Nasser Hussain had done at Lord's, but once again it was too late and a salvage operation at best.

When it mattered on the third day, lack of technique against the short ball combined with poor stroke selection and, in the case of the

captain, woeful misjudgement, had prevented England from being seriously competitive, which has happened all too often against the best sides in recent years.

It would need a psychologist to find out what happens to the mental processes when 11 highly competent cricketers come together in a group and call themselves England, not to say Team England. They do not suddenly become worse cricketers and so the answer has to lie in the mind. Their mental state is surely the product of this continued lack of success.

Nick Knight arrived at Old

Trafford in brilliant form, having scored more than 400 runs in his last three innings for Warwickshire, and he will have been brim full of confidence.

At his best, life is not

needed to be told that when he is trying to get out of the way of a bouncer, it is desperately important not to take his eye of the ball. Then, if it keeps low or keeps following him, he is in a position to make last-second adjustments.

Yet within seven overs of coming to the crease on Saturday in England's first innings, he turned his head away when trying to avoid a short one.

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Trafford in brilliant form, having scored more than 400 runs in his last three innings for Warwickshire, and he will have been brim full of confidence.

At his best, life is not

needed to be told that when he is trying to get out of the way of a bouncer, it is desperately important not to take his eye of the ball. Then, if it keeps low or keeps following him, he is in a position to make last-second adjustments.

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Ward puts Kent on their way

BY JOHN COLLIS
*at Maidstone*Yorkshire 263-3
Kent 266-5
Kent win by 5 wickets

HOT WEATHER, a boisterous crowd and some enjoyable knockabout cricket that produced a breathless finish brought the Maidstone Festival to a fitting climax. This was particularly welcome given that the Championship game had ground to a halt on Saturday, Kent batting on and on with nothing to gain from an afternoon declaration.

Darren Lehmann set the scene with a muscular 99 in 94 balls, cheered of a debut Sunday League century by Graham Cowdry's direct hit from mid-off. On the previous evening Cowdry had announced that he will retire at the end of the season, breaking a continuous family link with Kent that began with Father Colin's first match in 1950.

Slipper David Byas almost kept pace with Lehmann. Yorkshire began this game sharing top slot in the league with neighbours Lancashire and when Bradley Parker weighed in with a 21-ball cameo that included a straight six over the marqueses, Yorkshire took tea on a commanding score.

Trevor Ward, however, was undaunted. Now in his 13th season, this Kent stalwart was

in danger of losing his regular place in the side until he contributed 94 to the Championship match and he followed it with a blistering display yesterday, budgeonning 85 from 70 balls. One of his brace of sixes almost tipped Paul Hutchison over the extra-cover boundary board. His partner for the first wicket, 19-year-old Robert Key, has made an opening slot for himself in both forms of the game.

Their 123, at seven an over, set the stage for Carl Hooper, who owed Maidstone a score having contributed just 24 to the four-day game. He might only have matched that yesterday, while still barely warmed up, but Hutchison spilled a long-off catch in a premature celebration.

Whereas Lehmann, Byas and Ward wielded a club, Hooper chose the rapier. He stole a half-century in 39 balls, largely from dabs and stroked drives, until on 54, he ballooned another catch to the point boundary, but Parker grounded the ball.

With the match almost won, Hooper tried to scuttle a suicidal single and departed. Suddenly Yorkshire looked interested, even more so when Cowdry hoisted a catch in the penultimate over. But only three were needed from the last over and four leg byes saw Kent home.

Essex put success down to the Law

STUART LAW guided Essex to a comfortable eight-wicket win at Derby yesterday to keep up their challenge for the AXA League.

The Australian overcame a slow pitch and cold, windy conditions to score an unbroken 78 from 85 balls as Essex cruised past Derbyshire's modest 152 with 45 balls to spare.

Law gave only one chance to Derbyshire, when he had scored 16 in the sixth over. The fierce return catch to Kevin Jeen, which Dean did well to get his left hand on, was not taken.

Law did not give Derbyshire another glimmer of hope as he reached his 50 of 2 balls and, with Ronnie Irani, took Essex to a sixth Sunday League victory.

Derbyshire struggled after being put in on a pitch devoid of pace and managed only four boundaries in their entire innings.

Michael Slater and Kim Barnett added 57 in 18 overs before Slater was stumped off a wide from Graham Napier, who took two more quickickets.

Adrian Rollings, who suffered a back spasm during his brief innings and was unable to keep wicket, mis-timed a drive to mid-off and Matthew Bassett was caught and swiped off an inside edge onto the wicket.

Bassett's 50 did not come until the 31st over but when he tried to accelerate, he drove Paul Grayson into the hands of extra cover.

That was the start of a collapse which saw Derbyshire slide from 122 for 3 to 152 all off the penultimate ball of the final over.

Grayson - who captured four wickets - and Peter Such started a stranglehold that Derbyshire could not break. In the last six batsmen mustered only 27 runs between them.

Derbyshire needed early wickets but they were hampered by the absence of Dominic Cork, on England duty, and Phillip DeFreitas, who is tonsillitis.

Law and Paul Prichard led 68 in 18 overs before the sex captain was well caught, a diving Trevor Smith at gaff off.

Gary Peters went in the next over but Law and Irani evaded further setbacks to give Essex a handsome win ahead of next Saturday's Benson and Hedges Cup final against Leicestershire.



Yorkshire's Darren Lehmann drives his way to 99 at Kent yesterday Chris Eades

AXA League

Derbyshire v Essex

Derbyshire won by 8 wickets

Essex 263-3
Derbyshire 152

Runs 50-100 100-150 150-200 200-250 250-300 300-350 350-400 400-450 450-500 500-550 550-600 600-650 650-700 700-750 750-800 800-850 850-900 900-950 950-1000 1000-1050 1050-1100 1100-1150 1150-1200 1200-1250 1250-1300 1300-1350 1350-1400 1400-1450 1450-1500 1500-1550 1550-1600 1600-1650 1650-1700 1700-1750 1750-1800 1800-1850 1850-1900 1900-1950 1950-2000 2000-2050 2050-2100 2100-2150 2150-2200 2200-2250 2250-2300 2300-2350 2350-2400 2400-2450 2450-2500 2500-2550 2550-2600 2600-2650 2650-2700 2700-2750 2750-2800 2800-2850 2850-2900 2900-2950 2950-3000 3000-3050 3050-3100 3100-3150 3150-3200 3200-3250 3250-3300 3300-3350 3350-3400 3400-3450 3450-3500 3500-3550 3550-3600 3600-3650 3650-3700 3700-3750 3750-3800 3800-3850 3850-3900 3900-3950 3950-4000 4000-4050 4050-4100 4100-4150 4150-4200 4200-4250 4250-4300 4300-4350 4350-4400 4400-4450 4450-4500 4500-4550 4550-4600 4600-4650 4650-4700 4700-4750 4750-4800 4800-4850 4850-4900 4900-4950 4950-5000 5000-5050 5050-5100 5100-5150 5150-5200 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SPORT

BERGKAMP'S DUTCH MASTERY P27 • ENGLAND STAND UP TO SPRINGBOKS P21

Sampras joins five-star élite

BY JOHN ROBERTS

IT WAS never going to be a pretty final, but it was an improvement on some we have witnessed from the men in recent years, if only because Pete Sampras and Goran Ivanisevic were able to inject an air of excitement along with the monotony of pulverising serves.

For many people, the chief interest was to see if Ivanisevic could end Sampras's reign and, like Jana Novotna on Saturday, be congratulated by the Duchess of Kent for being third time lucky. The Duchess did greet him, before handing him yet another consolation prize: he also received £217,500 for his trouble.

Certain Americans refer to Wimbledon as a "crap shoot", not intending to be disrespectful to the hallowed lawns but to express the sense of a short-point lottery. Sampras, blessed with the classical serve-volley game and the temperament to capitalise, is rather more eloquent. As he said yesterday, after winning the title for a fifth time in six years, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, "This is our Superbowl, this is what the game is all about to me."

While it is true that the accurate placement of a mighty serve is a key to the championship, the return of serve usually turns the lock. That was true in Sampras's case yesterday, just as it was when he wore down Ivanisevic in straight sets in 1994, and also when the Croat left-hander lost so agonisingly to Andre Agassi in five sets in 1992.

Ivanisevic hit 37 aces past Agassi to finish the tournament with a record 206. His total was 13 less during the past fortnight, and while he fired 32 aces against Sampras yesterday, he was also guilty of 20 double faults.

Sampras, nevertheless, expressed relief that he had survived a blitz. "Of all the finals I have played," he said, "this

was by far the toughest. At this level, with Goran and I playing on grass, there's not a lot between us. I felt I got a little lucky out there, and before I knew it, I'd won it."

A fifth title places the 26-year-old American level with Sweden's Bjorn Borg (1976-80) and Laurie Doherty (1902-06).

William Renshaw holds the record with seven (1881-86 and 89). His successes, in common with Doherty's, were accomplished before the invasion of overseas players.

Sampras also moves alongside Borg and the Australian Rod Laver with 11 Grand Slam singles titles, one less than Laver's compatriot, Roy Emerson. Yesterday's victory keeps Sampras ahead of the Chilean Marcelo Rios at the top of the world rankings, although that was the least of his concerns.

Win the Slams, Sampras says, and the rankings will take care of themselves. Ivanisevic, who is the same age as Sampras, dreams on about a major breakthrough. "This one hurts the most," he said, "because this time I had the chance. He didn't play well."

Heaven help us if Sampras plays well, although it was possible to sympathise with Ivanisevic to a certain extent. "I had

a set, I had two set points with

two second serves, and I lost the third set," ran his lament. "In the fourth and fifth sets my legs were not fresh, like they were supposed to be, and I didn't move to the net. He raised his game in the fifth, but I was getting slower, and he could return better."

Similar tales have been told by others who have thought they had the beating of Sampras on his favourite turf, and Ivanisevic eventually took solace from an improved performance. "In '94, I lost two tie-breaks, and then in the third set he killed me [6-0]. Today it was very close."

The outcome of the opening set gave Ivanisevic scope for optimism, particularly since Sampras had been able to convert any of six break points to his opponent's three on the way to the tie-break. Ivanisevic won the first shoot-out, 7-2, and recovered from 0-2 in the second set to force another.

Here again, Ivanisevic created opportunities to win the set. Although his two set points came with Sampras serving, the American did miss his first serve in each case. Sampras also had two break points with Ivanisevic serving. A third set point arrived in the barrel of Sampras's gun, and he duly

fired an unreturnable serve for 10-9.

Some might have thought Ivanisevic's chances had disappeared along with the third set, Sampras breaking for 3-2 and leaving his opponent standing, arms out wide in a gesture that said "What can I do?" after being beaten by a reflex backhand volley in the concluding game.

To his credit, Ivanisevic enlivened the crowd with a comeback. A trick shot played through his legs in the fifth game of the fourth set might have given the impression that he was about to take his task less seriously. His response was to break for 4-2 and hold firm to take the contest to the fifth set. At this juncture, Sampras appeared to shift a gear, roaring to the title after breaking for 4-2.

Sampras was asked if he considered that Ivanisevic has the psychological capacity to win the title. "I don't think it's mental," he said. "I think Goran was mentally strong today. He didn't get upset. In fact, I feel he's going to win this event. His game is too big and his serve is too big [not to]. Sure, it gets a little tougher as the years go on, but I'm sure this match is going to sit with both of us."

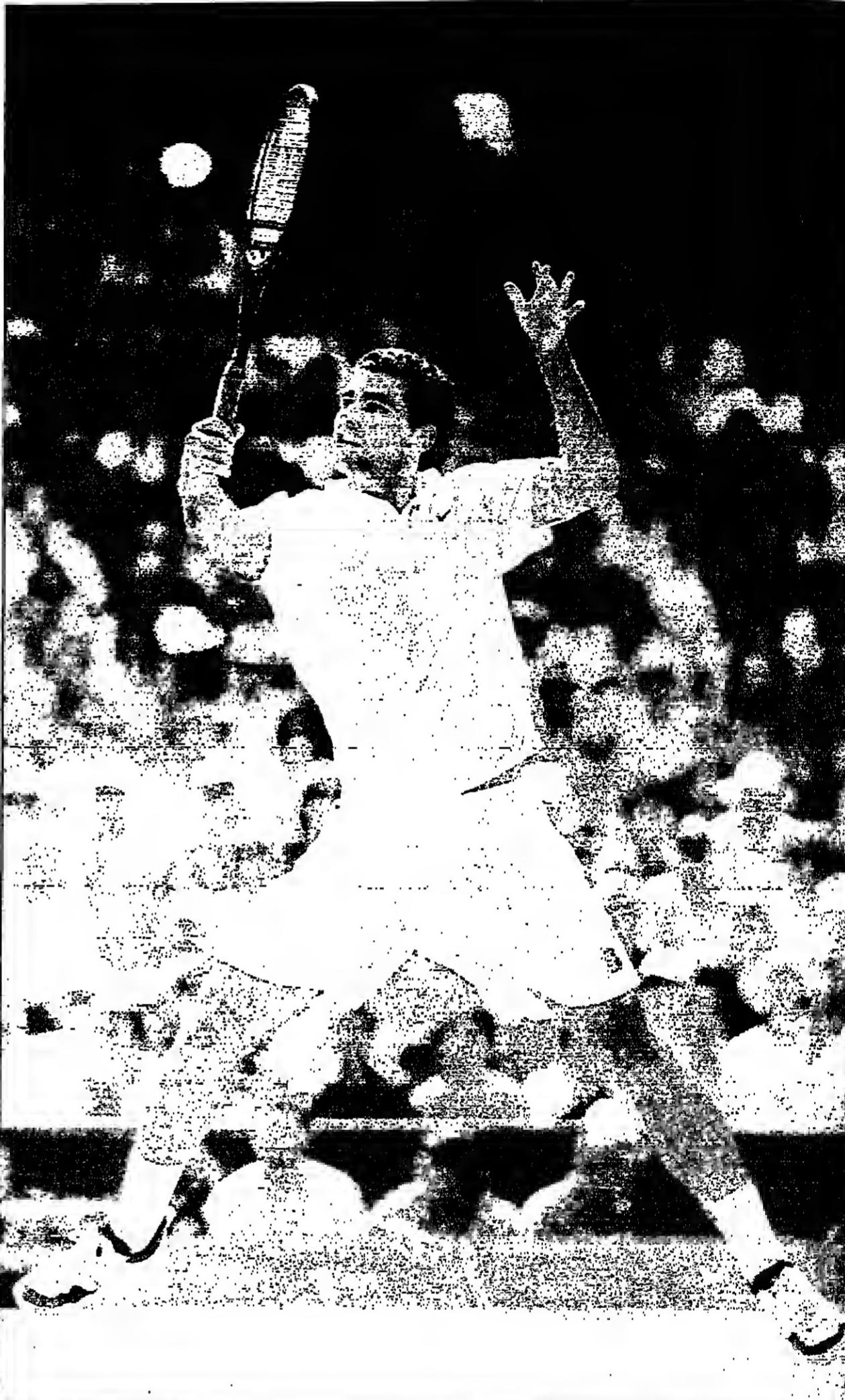
"I'm sure he's frustrated. I would be frustrated if I was in his shoes. He's playing well enough to win this thing. You just need a little bit of luck to win any major, and he just hasn't seemed to have gotten that in his three finals."

Bernie Ecclestone, Formula One's Mr Big, was seated beside Ivanisevic's manager, Ico Tirić, and a number of supporters wearing the red and white check football shirts of Croatia. They blinked when Ivanisevic delivered three aces and a service winner to take the sixth game of the second set in only 25 seconds. Speed and power is worshipped in F1, but, as Ecclestone knows too well, you're not a winner until you see a flag in black and white.

Novotna's reward, page 24



Ivanisevic shows his frustration yesterday Reuters



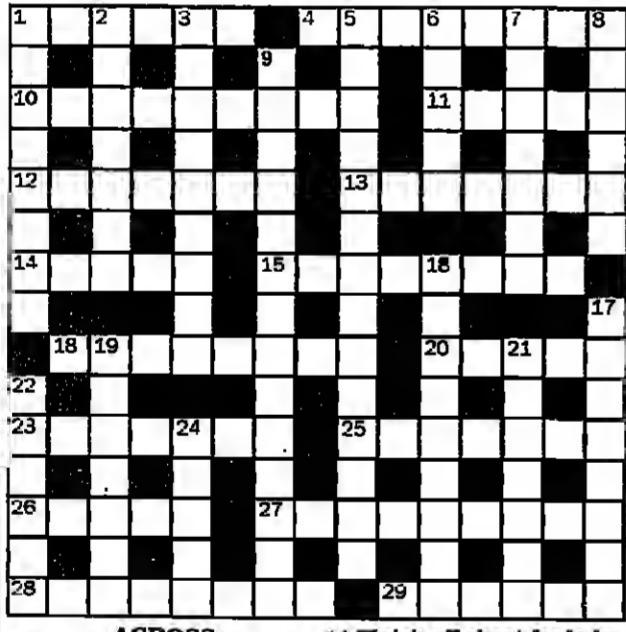
Pete Sampras displays his style playing a volley on his way to another title at Wimbledon

Robert Hallam

THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3635. Monday 6 July

By Portia



ACROSS

- Orders given about old city temple (6)
- About to appear pathetic (8)
- Some drive out good fly (9)
- Number feature in Christmas book (5)
- Shakespearian role of a Catholic martyr absorbs one (7)
- Showy area in the States (7)
- Finish off chest for lady (5)
- Dead happy? (2,6)
- Parting on genuine note of agreement (8)
- Relative one pops into? (5)
- Sounds like oil jug (7)
- Flounder before help's given by expert (3,4)
- Corruption comes from junta interfering (5)
- Espionage chief dealt with messy part (9)

- 28** They might point to a quarter being superfluous (8)
29 It may be a first coodition (6)
- DOWN**
- Available space is provided for function (8)
 - Stream in, forcing out artist (7)
 - Insubstantial character of executive (9)
 - Does often say he's moving before too long (3,2,5,4)
 - Read work written on African republic (5)
 - Account's taken of popular opinion expressed (7)
 - Bring up delay over road in Ireland (6)
 - Problem of self-determination? (8,6)
 - A stupid price charged for sketch (9)
 - Intelligence risk seizing male officer abroad (8)
 - Not included in tedious negotiation (7)
 - Pbase college girl's likely to be in (7)
 - Right stirrer's takeo in team leader (4,2)
 - Somehow loathe taking out a pension (5)

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Monday 6 July 1998

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predecessor as captain, on 81.

England still need a further 157 to avoid an innings defeat, having been dismissed 369 behind just 183 and forced to follow on by South African captain Hansie Cronje.

"We sat down before loosening at the start of play and there were a few home truths," explained Stewart.

"They have outplayed us in

every department during this match, and that is not good enough.

"We have had two good sessions today, but there are three more tomorrow. We were cheered off after being booted off yesterday and rightly so – it was good to get the crowd back on our side.

"The first hour is going to be vital tomorrow and we will have

to do it session by session and try to get through half an hour by half an hour."

Stewart labelled Atherton's display as "magnificent" and called for a repeat of his performance in Johannesburg two years ago, when he batted for 643 minutes for an unbeaten 155 to save the second Test.

Derek Pringle,
Henry Blofeld, Page 23

Stewart drums up Joburg spirit

CRICKET

ALEC STEWART and Mike Atherton put together an unbroken third-wicket partnership of 200 at Old Trafford yesterday to give England hope of saving the third Test against South Africa.

Stewart, with his 11th Test century, will start today's final day on 114 with Atherton, his

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MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Alan Titchmarsh: Exposed!

**He's not a gardener,
he's a mighty sex god.**

**And it's not just
because he's good
with his hands and
can do more things
with mulch than you
could dream of**

OKAY ALAN TITCHMARSH and word association. Me first, because it was my idea. Here goes: Alan Titchmarsh, Radio Two, *Gardener's World*, Dib dib dib, mulch mulch mulch, nice pullovers, lime fleeces, peach curl, Pebble Mill, "Ohh, Kylie, that's a knock-out dress!" multi-purpose compost, multi-purpose TV personality, own hair cleverly contrived to look like a toupee, bulb rot, *Ground Force*, beady things on car seats (although I'm not sure why), Chelsea Flower Show, MIGHTY SEX GOD. AUTHOR OF RACY NOVELS. I THINK I MIGHT FANCY HIM A BIT. Songs of Praise, *Gardener's Question Time*...

Hang on, I hear you crying, what's this "MIGHTY SEX GOD" business? What's this "AUTHOR OF RACY NOVELS" business? You "FANCY him a bit"? Kindly explain yourself, if you can. And I will.

Mighty Sex God? Totally. Indeed, at the last *Gardener's World Live* event he was mobbed by ladies "who were younger than you might think". It was "quite scary". So much so that, the following day, he had to return with two bodyguards. He was recently included in *Elle Magazine's* top 20 list of the

**THE
DEBORAH ROSS
INTERVIEW**

hip and cool and gorgeous. He was enormously flattered, yes. "All men secretly hope women fancy them..." Then, just the other day, *Woman's Own* rang him up. Something to do with a feature on "hidden heart-throbs". He says he said to them: "There's never been anything hidden about it!" He's not exactly up there with Dorothy Parker when it comes to witty ripostes. Must he all that fresh air.

Racy novel? Yes, his literary debut, *Mr MacGregor*, is out in the Autumn, and there's quite a hefty amount of sex in it.

Fancy him? Yes, although I'm not sure why. It is quite hard to explain. Perhaps it's just that I've reached that age where having someone cheerful and uncomplicated and thoroughly good with his hands about the place seems wholly desirable. Indeed, I find I get quite excited when I hear I'm actually going to meet him. I even fax him to ask if I should wear hot-pants and wellingtons, or would that be over-doing it rather? He faxes back a map. He needs some encouragement, obviously.

So, to his home, Barleyfield, in Alton, Hampshire. A big house which I never get to go in, I'm not sure why. Perhaps his wife, Alison, saw the hot-pants fax and said: "I'm not having that shut in here". All I get is a glimpse through the window. It seems very nice and polished and knick-knacky. I'm guided round the side, through the conservatory, and out into the back garden, which is thoroughly spectacular - an acre of "several thousand plants" which, being something of a horticulturist myself, I can instantly identify as "that big bush there" and "that thing with pink on it" (*thingus without pinkus omni tium*). Alan is right up the top, filming this Friday's episode of *Gardener's World* (8.30pm, BBC 2). This particular item is about how to create a British seaside garden with pebbles and water and sea-shells and ornamental grasses. He has created such a place in his own garden, with a red striped deck chair in the background. He is saying, to camera: "All the water in the soil is kept in by a mulch of pea shingle..."

Being helpful by nature, and wanting to do all I can to promote the British seaside, I immediately offer to sit in the deck chair with a knotted hanky



Alan Titchmarsh, gardener and racy novelist, photographed at home in his Hampshire garden

William Webster

on my head while, say, having a fag and reading *The Sun* and looking fat. "Shhhh!" go the film crew and producer. I am rather hurt. Indeed, I had intended to offer them my own idea for a programme called "Completely Useless Gardener's World" in which useless gardener's go to the garden centre to buy things that don't even survive the ride home. However, I am now minded to take it to Channel Five who, let's face it, will take anything so long as it's rubbish and cheap, and my own show certainly promises to be both.

Anyway, Alan finishes filming this particular item. There are lots of "well done, Alan"s and "lovely, Alan"s. It is very much like being in Alan Partridge land. I keep expecting his secretary to rush up, crying "I've bought your athlete's foot powder, Alan". Alan Titchmarsh was, of course, the inspiration for Alan Partridge. Or, if not entirely, then at least partly. "I think it was based on me and Michael Aspel." Did you mind? "Oh no," he replies brightly. "If you minded about things like that you'd end up a paranoid wreck." He watched the series, yes. And? "I found it toe-curlingly funny." The week after the

broadcast of the very first episode, where Partridge has lunch with the controller of BBC2 and desperately tries to talk him into screening "monkey tennies", Titchmarsh himself had lunch with the Controller. "It was a little uncomfortable at first, but we had a laugh about it." Does anything ever hurt Alan? Well, he replies, when he was hosting the daytime chat show *Pebble Mill at One*, the TV critic Victor Lewis Smith did write: "If you have half a mind to watch *Pebble Mill*, you will have made ample intellectual provision". Ouch, I say. "Oh, it cut to the core at first. But now I think it's actually well written."

We have a little wander round the garden. He is 49, and is wearing a coral T-shirt and Levi's (W. 32, L. 32). He likes pinks and tulips. He hates gladioli - "stiff and inflexible". We end up at the shed where, for six months, he wrote *Mr MacGregor*, which is about a "drop-dead gorgeous" TV gardener with "tousled brown hair, trim waist, tight bottom and shapely legs", who betrays his long-time girlfriend for a glamourous news reader. "His hands stroked her shoulders and her arms, then slid the Lycra top down to her waist, revealing her perfectly formed breasts. By the time they had slipped naked under the duvet and wound around one another like ivy, his doubts and worries had slipped away and he was lost in the warm and fragrant passion of Lisa Drake..."

Did the shed shake when you wrote those bits? "No. Why?" OK, were they hard to write? "NO. It's not very graphic, is it? Actually, I don't like graphically portrayed sex. It's a turn-off. Too anatomical. My stuff is more sensual." He wanted to write a novel, he says, because he "wanted to do something that gave tree root to my imagination". All the other stuff he does "is very rooted in reality". He enjoyed the writing process very much. "Your characters do take on a life of their own. The fun is in seeing what develops. Sometimes they surprise you." Lisa kissed his shoulders and neck then his mouth, and ran her hand down his body until she found what she was looking for. She stroked him softly until once more he gave himself to her. "More, I would say, from the nice pullover school of erotic literature rather than anything more surprising. Still, he's had a go, which is what counts.

Anyway, he knows exactly what's going to happen when it's published. "Everyone's going to ask me: 'Have you ever had it off with a news reader?'" If so, I say, then you must respond with: "Yes. And it was Trevor MacDonald". Always better to be talked about than not, don't you think? Alan looks a little frightened. Honestly, I continue, you can be hopeless at times. But I tell you what. Should our romance not take off, then I shall happily step in as your PR. OK? "We'll see," he replies worriedly.

On to the next *Gardener's World* item. Something to do with taking cuttings from a Weigela Jeans Gold, "a cracking shrub". I get bored and wander back up to the top, where I have a smoke, burying the butt in a path of bark chipping. I darenot confess, although doubtless I'll be found out next year, when Alan discovers a *Dunhill Kings Sizetts* bush with red and gold foliage and white, cylindrical fruit growing up there. Anyway, by the time I get back he's moved to the ornamental pond and is doing something to camera with Chris Baines, the regular conservation and

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NETWORK
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A family of businesses

A positive look at penalties

"DID YOU see the match?" I heard a man in the Tube saying to his friend on Thursday.

No need to say which match. It had already become "the match". The match between England and Argentina that England had to win if they were to (a) stay in the World Cup (b) avenge Maradona's "Hand of God" goal (c) avenge the Falklands War ...

No, told me. We won the Falklands War, didn't we?

So it was Argentina who had to win to avenge the Falklands War, then. And they did win, so that's all right. Isn't it?

"Did you see the match?" I said to my friend Jim on Friday morning.

He pulled a face.

"Yes," he said. "I did. Tragic. Still, one good thing about it."

"Was there?" I said.



MILES KINGTON

'The match' united the nation, but in sporting celebration or brutal tribalism?

"Yes," he said. "The better team won."

Yes, there is that. I had forgotten about that.

Now that England is out of the World Cup, we can concentrate on the football, and get back to enjoying the game for its own sake. Except that, of course, almost every game that is played is a settling of scores in one way or another.

Apparently, Holland were looking forward to beating Argentina as much as we were, because they had some old scores to settle from past games that Holland should have won but didn't.

Indeed, I think I read in the paper that Croatia had some ancient footballing grievance against Germany that has now been amply settled. Or is it some ancient World War II grievance? I'm not sure.

"What I hated about all this England hysteria," said Jim, "was the pretence that it was all about football."

"What was it about, then?" "It was about murky political feelings," said Jim. "It was tribalism and political frustration and end-of-empire, loss-of-power feelings. It was all about how we can't control the world any more or keep Spanish fishermen out of our waters, so at least we can smash them at football."

THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars.

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday.

THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday.

FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages.

THE INDEPENDENT

Bigger and better



This week's series celebrates 50 years of the NHS. At Addenbrookes, Cambridge, Jacob watches the nurse cut the plaster on his broken arm

Brian Harris

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Half-open closet

Sir: Philip Hensher's view that before long we will see openly gay bishops, generals and footballers is wildly optimistic ("Time for some gay abandon", 3 July).

It has taken 31 years just to achieve an equal age of consent following the decriminalisation of gay sex between consenting men in 1967. It is still illegal if more than two men engage in sexual activity – not to mention that two men can still be arrested for kissing in the street. The only openly gay footballer has recently committed suicide.

The tragedy of the postponed Pride festival is that in previous years it gave a lot of gay people the opportunity to be themselves for one day in the year. Presumably they can now stay in the closet the whole time.

Mr Hensher mentions the 139 or so gay bars in London. A flourishing commercial scene is no substitute for full civil rights.

ANDREW JONES
London W2

Sir: Philip Hensher's article seems to embody the quagmire that London's male homosexuals have stumbled into. Perhaps in their 139 bars they have contracted some form of paradise syndrome?

There have only been four significant pieces of gay legislation in thirty years, including the original, inadequate Act to decriminalise and the poisonous Section 28. I share a sense of the privilege to be gay but from my quiet outpost in a small Scottish town I caution against becoming indolent. Here the "smooth process of acceptance" has not even begun.

COLIN MASON
Falkirk

Lawrence and media

Sir: Media comment and reports on the Stephen Lawrence inquiry make it abundantly clear that the principle that a person is innocent until proven guilty in a court of law is now regarded with contempt. If the system has failed then action should be taken to remedy it, but to have a trial by media of people already acquitted in the courts, or in some cases not even brought to trial, is appalling.

As newspapers are well aware, ordinary individuals have no redress, as legal aid is not available in defamation cases. The comment "Why don't they sue" is easily made by the media in the knowledge that only very rich individuals are able to sue.

During the inquiry even *The Independent* has made aside remarks about the appearance of the five young men, and even in one instance their relatives' appearance. Apparently what settles the men's guilt is not actual evidence, but their demeanour at the inquiry. Whatever attitude the witnesses adopted, be it nervous and scared, aloofly formal or sorrowful, would be interpreted as "proof" of guilt.

The achievement of the media in this case has been to ensure that the killers of Stephen Lawrence, whether they be the two witnesses at the inquiry who have not been charged or other individuals, will

never be tried, as after all the coverage a fair trial is impossible.

W STEPHENS
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire

Sir: The murders of PC Keith Blakelock and Stephen Lawrence showed that witnesses and suspects can appear to suffer selective memory loss. In both cases the presumed killers and associates would not betray one another. We must not just blame the police for incompetence when they fail to get a conviction. There are members of the black and white community who refuse to help the police under any circumstances.

If you want to confront racism you need to acknowledge that it exists in all communities and is not the unique preserve of the Metropolitan Police or white fascists. In the short term we need to redouble our efforts to create a police force that represents our ethnic diversity.

NICHOLAS MATTEY
Wallington, Surrey

What dyslexia is

Sir: What is it about dyslexia that makes some people intent on proving it does not exist? Diane McGuinness ("All research on 'dyslexia' is invalid", 2 July) is the latest in a long line. Yet for much of her journey, she appears to be on the same side as those of us who believe strongly that dyslexia is as real as rain.

Does anyone really believe that genes control reading? I don't think so. My understanding of recent research is that there are inherited genetic characteristics which make it harder for some people to succeed in the intellectual gymnastics that make reading possible.

And I agree that "we have no diagnosis for dyslexia". All we do at the moment is map some of the key characteristics – it is a bit like defining a blind person by noticing that they cannot tell what colour shirt we are wearing, cannot run an obstacle race, but can recognise Callas singing – we are aware of everything but the crucial fact. But does that mean that the condition does not exist?

Diane McGuinness believes that the answer to teaching children to read lies in teaching them how to decipher the complex codes that make up reading. So do teachers of dyslexic children. We have been doing for years. There are various approaches, but the same framework underlies them: reducing the jumble of English orthography to a clear system. We can teach nearly anyone to read given a little time and the right materials.

Getting dyslexics to spell, punctuate and organise their lives is a different matter, and here we seem to be getting to the crux of the problem. Dyslexia is not simply about not being able to read; it is a different approach to the whole of life. It is not all negative; many dyslexics have compensatory talents in spatial and design skills. But as many adult dyslexics who are apparently successful will tell you, it is a constant battle against poor short-term memory and poor organisational skills, with the whole thing liable to collapse under strain or in panic. Far

from research proving nothing, recent tests have mapped the brain patterns of successful adult dyslexics and has shown that they do process information at different rates and using different parts of the brain.

Reading is a peculiar, complex and supra-logical process that just happens to suit the way most people use their brains. But it does not suit everyone; and in our hyper-literate society that matters. It would be nice to scrap all the sterile debates on whether dyslexia "exists" or not and concentrate on finding out more about the process of reading, and making sure that everyone can take pleasure in its benefits.

FRANCES THOMAS
London N1

MAF and school food

Sir: I was very surprised to read the letter from David Cromwell of Southampton Green Party (1 July). He alleges that the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), which is currently under negotiation in the OECD, would prevent local councils from removing genetically modified foods from school menus.

I would take issue with many of Mr Cromwell's comments about the MAI. On this specific point, I am happy to reassure him that he is mistaken. International trade in genetically modified foods, like all international trade, is governed by rules set by the World Trade Organisation. Countries have, and will retain, the right to restrict the import of genetically modified foods until they are satisfied that they are safe.

The MAI is about protecting investors from discrimination on grounds of nationality and thereby providing developing countries concerned with the framework to encourage and retain inward investment that is key to their economic advance and the enhancement of the quality of life of their people. It would have an impact whatsoever on the issue raised by Mr Cromwell or more generally on the rights of consumers to choose whatever they wish to eat.

Lord CLINTON-DAVIS
Minister for Trade
Department of Trade and Industry
London SW1

Ad hoc punishments

Sir: All support should be lent to the call of Andrew Coyle (*Sociological Notes*, 4 July) for a fundamental review of the place of punishment in our society.

The recent rise of vigilante justice, public disorder over the release of convicted paedophiles, legislation lowering the age at which children can be prosecuted and widening the courts' powers to punish parents for the crimes of their children have all added noise to the chaotic public discourse on punishment.

The annual cost of crime runs, financially, at over £15bn. The emotional cost to victims and their relatives is also considerable. A new prison costs over £90m to build, a sum equal to two district hospitals or 60 primary schools. Have prisons served us so well in recent times (remembering that over 80 per cent of people sentenced to prison have

been convicted of non-violent crimes) that we need them more than hospitals or schools?

Should crimes of recklessness continue to be regarded as less deserving of our contempt than crimes of intention? In two stories in the same column (*In Brief*, 4 July) you report that a man was jailed for injuring a woman at whom he deliberately, whereas another man who killed a child by indiscriminate driving was given a community sentence.

The way a society treats offenders is a key indicator of its basic values. It is wrong that a social activity of such significance is guided only by a disparate collection of laws and guidelines that have been made, *ad hoc*, in response to particular cases or political moods.

DR GARY SLAPPER
Director, *The Law Programme*
The Open University
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

Shoot-out too late

Sir: As the knock-out phase of the World Cup began, I waited for the first game to result in a penalty shoot-out. Sure enough, it was England's clash with Argentina. Like most football supporters, I hope that this does not occur in the final. It would be too much for the world champions to be declared on the basis of a shoot-out again.

The way forward is to have a penalty shoot-out after 90 minutes if a game is tied at that stage, followed by 30 minutes of extra time in which either team can score and settle the tie properly, in the knowledge that if the teams are still tied after the 30 minutes of extra time, the result of the penalty shoot-out, already known, would settle it.

Thus no single player would be held responsible for the destiny of the whole team, and there would always be an incentive to seek a goal during extra time. Under the current system, extra time is too often dominated by teams too afraid of making a fatal mistake.

NEIL DACEY

London W4

Sir: On the subject of ill-considered red cards, I would like to expand on G L Samson's suggestion (letter, 2 July), of a time penalty for an offending player.

It would not only penalise the player and his team, but also provide a useful cooling-off period. During this time a fourth official could study replays and a decision could be made to send the player back into play, extend the time penalty or exclude the player from the rest of the game.

STEPHEN COTTAR

Bristol

God of arithmetic

Sir: In discussing the provability of the existence of God, Owen Gwynne says (Letter, 2 July): "Gödel showed that in any complete mathematical system there are going to be theorems which although true cannot be proved to be true... The existence of unprovable truths is inherent in logic."

Alas, Gödel showed nothing of the kind. He showed (very roughly) that

in logic, every true statement is provable, but that in arithmetic there are true statements which cannot be formally proved. Thus logic is complete, while arithmetic is incomplete.

So Owen Gwynne's letter really means that the existence of God is a fact of arithmetic, rather than a fact of logic. Flattering though this is to mathematicians, it does not seem to be quite what he meant.

MICHAEL BRODIE
London NW8

Sir: There is nothing wrong with Bronze Age myths (letter, 3 July), in fact many of them are magnificent. The trouble starts when people take them literally. One of the most dangerous situations in the world exists because too many people believe that God gave Palestine to the descendants of Abraham by Isaac, to the exclusion of his heirs through Ishmael.

P J STEWART
Oxford

Victims of porn

Sir: I was astonished to read Virginia Ironside's response to a husband's addiction to hard-core pornography depicting the abuse of women and children (*Dilemmas*, 2 July).

She wrote that fantasy is completely normal and that the wife's inner life must be "wretchedly one-dimensional and impoverished" if she had no "secret and shameful fantasies and feelings of her own".

What Ms Ironside failed to address was the issue of the pornography itself. The ownership of such explicit material is a criminal offence; even downloading it from the Internet is illegal. Further, many of these images, in respect of children, are photographic evidence of actual abuse taking place. Lives of real children are being destroyed to produce these images, and people who use these pornographic pictures are vicariously attempting to share the experience.

DEBORAH KINDRED
Ipswich, Suffolk

IN BRIEF

Sir: Although Manchester City Art Gallery's expansion scheme is waiting for confirmation of a £2.5m grant from the European Regional Development Fund, the project is definitely going ahead, with £15m from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the full backing of Manchester City Council ("Tomorrow has been cancelled", 26 June). In fact, the building closed to the public last month, so that work could begin on decanting the collections.

KATE FARMERY
Press & Promotions Officer
Manchester City Art Galleries

Sir: Your headline "Graduates can't communicate, say employers" (2 July), might have said "Employers can't communicate, say graduates." A graduate myself, I applied for 31 jobs between January and June this year, but received only 14 replies. STEPHEN MAGILL
Huddersfield

THE INDEPENDENT

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Mr Blair must impose higher moral standards

CORRUPTION IN British politics is not in the major league of backhanders and nepotism. But it does exist and it is important to be clear about precisely at which level it operates. That all-purpose word "sleaze" was a significant part of what destroyed the last Conservative government. A lot of it was to do with sex, which had nothing to do with financial corruption but which consumed a large acreage of tabloid newsprint, and which fed the perception of an administration morally adrift. What mattered, though, was the secrecy of Tory party funding, which meant it was impossible to know if government policy had been bought, and the fact that some Tory MPs sold their access to government for cash.

This Labour government is better than that. But not much. Certainly not as much as implied by the rhetoric of self-beatification deployed by Tony Blair. He once promised an altogether new standard of public morality, one that could never hope to match the slow sing to clean up corruption in Labour councils in Scotland and Doncaster - or the tangled private affairs of Geoffrey Robinson.

That is the context of yesterday's news that a number of junior former bag-carriers have been hawking their new Labour contacts on the open market. Despite Derek Draper's jocular boast to a reporter posing as an American businessman, "Your Mayor Daley has nothing on me," there is no real comparison between this foolish young braggart and the former mayor of Chicago. But the revelations paint a depressing picture of the casual morality of some of the low-level members of what one of Mr Draper's Downing Street contacts calls "the Circle" around the Prime Minister. It reflects badly on Mr Blair that he has not tried harder to insulate Downing Street from this kind of paid lobbying. That, fundamentally, is the problem. The Prime Minister showed that he was not above paid lobbying himself when he received Bernie Ecclestone, the motor-racing boss, at Number 10. Mr Blair did not of course benefit himself from Mr Ecclestone's £1m donation to the Labour Party - subsequently returned - but his failure to treat Mr Ecclestone's arguments for exemption from the ban on tobacco advertising with extra caution was a remarkable failure of judgement.

We hope we are wrong about the Prime Minister's character, but there are worrying signs that he has a weakness for cronyism. It is a tendency that needs to



be curbed. It was surprising, to put it at its lowest, that, after years of criticising the Tories for handing out honours to party donors, so many of Labour's new peers should be people who have given large sums to the party - or, worse, to Mr Blair's own fund to fight the Labour leadership campaign four years ago.

It is one of the dangers of non-ideological government that it is particularly susceptible to arguments put forward by those with the cachet of business success. Ministers are also likely to think that their job is to "cut deals and broker compromises, thus creating an environment in which paid lobbying is bound to thrive. Lobbying itself is no bad thing - it ought to fit somewhere on a scale

running from necessary evil to democratic service - but it must be carefully policed and government must go out of its way to ensure that it is not unfairly influenced, and that is seen to be so.

The danger is that Labour, being so long out of power, fails to realise both how easily it is prey to special-interest lobbying, and how unseemly it is to appear to enjoy the perks of power.

No one would be so naive as to argue that virtue is its own reward in politics, but even a ruthless and cynical politician, such as the Prime Minister, might recognise that high moral standards will bring a reward in electoral terms.

Finding the courage to compromise

TO ANYONE who does not live in Northern Ireland, the annual crisis in Drumcree is baffling. The temptation is to mutter: "It's only a walk down a road, for goodness' sake," and wonder why one side cannot agree not to walk down the road or the other side agree not to make such a fuss if they do.

Mo Mowlam put it diplomatically yesterday, describing it as a clash between "the right to march" and "the right to live free of fear and intimidation". That is a bit highfalutin. The right to free association may be enshrined in the European Convention of Human Rights, but it says nothing about the right to march down a particular road. But then, nor does fear and intimidation enter into it, because the Orangemen marched down the Garvagh Road last year with a massive police escort and Roman Catholics were hardly cowering in terror in their front rooms. Forget the philosophy - this is tribalism, and for one tribe to "win", the other tribe must lose.

The only way to approach this year's marching season was to go to independent arbitration, which is what the Government did. The independent Parades Commission decided that the Orange tribe should not march down the Green tribe's road. Now the Government must stick to that decision, come what may.

For the future, there can be only one long-term solution, which is to compromise. The Orangemen marched down the Garvagh Road last year as part of a deal that involved re-routing other marches elsewhere. And they must not march there this year. Next year they should march again, and do so on alternate years until the people of Portadown decide they have better things to do on a Sunday.

Vacation conundrum

WHAT IS the world coming to? We work longer hours and our leisure time is precious. Yet, as this year's British summer continues to resemble a monsoon, many favoured destinations in the global village seem to represent a hazard rather than a haven.

Some, like Florida, veer rather too close to the old saying "Out of the frying pan ...". Sojourning in Italy may leave you as sun-dried as those tomatoes favoured in fancy sandwich shops.

Moreover, should you be tempted to dive out of the fire into the Mediterranean's cooling waters, we learn today that it is home to growing numbers of great white sharks, the stars of Jaws. Is nowhere safe?

Will swagger and testosterone spin Labour out of control?

THE BOYS from Millbank Tower done good. A mere 18 months ago, the Labour Party's backroom boys had £85 suits and lived on tiny salaries and other people's expense accounts. These days they have white-washed left overviews, wear Paul Smith and gel their hair, which makes them resemble a bunch of gangsters on a night out.

The victory of the People's Party as made a lot of them rich. They talk about their friends who were elected to parliament with a mixture of pity and contempt. I asked one recently whether he regretted giving up a political career and he said: "I've got a political career, and it gives me a brilliant salary and access to ministers, which is more than those poor buggers indicating two of the 1997 intake of MPs have."

Lobbying is to democracies what secret services are to totalitarian regimes - inevitable, unaccountable and always in plentiful supply. New Labour is anxious to usurp - and keep surped - the relationship with big business that was once assumed to be the sole property of the Tory party; now that, above all, investors need to know what government is likely to do and where its pressure points are.

The blurring of the once absolute vision between state-owned companies and the private sector means that key decisions are made by regulatory bodies. Business has thus become more dependent on government than ever before. At the same time, a governing party as ideologically deracinated as New Labour is a bit of a puzzle to investors. They seek assurance from people they think can read the minds of the powerful.

For between £5,000 and £20,000 a month, we discover, a firm of lobbyists will instruct clients in the "political grammar" of New Labour and "reshape their core corporate culture" in line with New Labour's "politics without leadership". As Gerald Ratner discovered, it is extraordinary what you can sell for ready money.

In this climate, the revelations in a Sunday newspaper that a number of firms employing former aides to Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Peter Mandelson passed, or promised to pass, confidential information from government departments to investigators posing as prospective clients does not tell me with surprise.

A lot of it has gone on before and always will. You might as well try to stop water running downhill as stop lobbyists trying to influence governments and ex-aides selling their address books for a fat fee.

But the emergence of unaccountable individuals who have been turned, by some process of genetic modification, into a blend of lobbyist, fixer, point-man, decoder and philosopher is unprecedented in British politics. It has created a cat's cradle so convoluted that someone will stitch himself up one day without noticing a conflict of interest.

New Labour is a hot-house in the same way that the defensive, inward-looking circle around Mrs Thatcher was in the early part of her reign. The party's young modernizers have always been a clique. From the start, they regarded themselves as the vanguard bright enough to sweep away the years of failure. The party had failed around in mediocrity. Now

they believe that they bought the rights to New Labour plc and are trading on the consequences.

But in their zeal to turn the Third Way into Millionaires' Way, they are in danger of destroying what is most precious to them: the integrity of the Labour Party. A lot of it is down to inexperience - seedy old Tory lobbyists knew when to shut up. This lot don't. There is a compulsive boastfulness about the inner circle that is sustained by the potent cocktail of swagger and testosterone.

The over-exuberance of young men on the make is not a pretty sight. In the Eighties, the two most memorable figures of TV political satire were Rick Mayall's Alan Alda and Harry Enfield's Loadsamoney. They were so successful because they were recognisable reproductions of the more dis-

agreeable beneficiaries of the Thatcherite boom. The image of Tories as uncaring, greedy and sleazy stuck like superglue to the party. I would not underestimate the potential of a new generation of Son of Alan Alda and Loadamoney - the sequel - to make voters feel rather squeamish.

Labour rightly kicked up a fuss when Ian Greer's role in bringing the 'cash for questions' MPs together with businessmen seeking favours was revealed.

The danger for New Labour is that it will be seen to do the same kind of dubious business, only better. The Greer MPs were low in the food chain. Their one marketable asset was that they could put down a question in the House. New Labour's go-betweens are providing higher calibre insights, some of which contravene parliamentary rules, others that are embarrassing to ministers.

Those exposed will claim that they were only hyping up the quality of contacts and information as they touted for business. But the damage is done, and done in an area the Prime Minister cares about most - namely, the Big Picture. The Blairite project succeeded largely thanks to Mr Blair's understanding of the need to stand back from the join-the-dots of party politics and observe events as a large, abstract canvas that conveys a mood of feeling to the electorate.

The Bernie Ecclestone affair was the first thing to make the Big Picture go fuzzy. People were confused and irritated by the secrecy and U-turns over Tobacco sponsorship. The Government lost control of the message. New Labour might also consider hugging business a little less hotly. And Mr Blair might remind himself that big business gets more out of government than it gives back. That is how it gets big and rich, and stays that way.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I just want to stuff my bank account at £250 an hour"
Derek Draper, lobbyist and former aide to Peter Mandelson

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Il faut, dans le gouvernement, des bergers et des bouchers"
(Governments need both shepherds and butchers)
François-Marie Voltaire, French philosopher and writer

SIEMENS UNIQUE SONATA HEARING AID

Siemens technology has developed a new hearing system which is set to revolutionise the lives of thousands of people who previously have had difficulty hearing in noisy surroundings.

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MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Reactions to CNN's false story about the Vietnam war



to objective manifestation of that responsibility: That is, they have to be fired. Until Mr Arnett and Mr Kaplan go, CNN's credibility will continue to suffer." Leader in *The Washington Times*

"Some say the retraction not only hurts CNN, but the credibility of all journalists - especially after a series of other inaccurate reports by major media companies. It comes at a time when many other news organizations have had credibility problems and adds to the public's per-

ception of the media as a whole. It's incorrect, but that's how the public views us, as a single entity." USA Today

"It's another indication that journalists are not able to withstand the pressures of the new market-driven environment, which forces them to compete a lot more, to strut their stuff. The idea now is to make your show a recognized brand name. Well, snake oil's a brand name, too." Bill Kovach, Los Angeles Times

Like CNN, Time is retracting the story and apologizing for running it. Based on our own investigation and that conducted by CNN, we conclude that the facts simply do not support the allegations that were made. We respect the serious and forthright way that CNN has re-examined this story, and we look forward to continuing to collaborate with them. We have learned a lot from the mistakes made." Apology printed by Time

In its hot-blooded enthusiasm to create a sensational

story, the network and the news magazine badly tripped, though its honesty to publicly air its mistake deserves commendation. Tim Graham, director of media analysis at the Media Research Centre, described the CNN story and retraction as an "enormous fiasco" for the network's credibility. Perhaps, that road back to credibility is helped by the fact that the network's candour in admitting its error was so prompt and cold-eyed." Ramesh Chandran in *The Times of India*

The new bride of Frankenstein



JOHN WALSH

What's really interesting are the assumptions we make about people, from considering their likenesses

IT'S ONLY a catalogue entry, but it speaks volumes. Lot 146 of the English Literature and History Sale at Sotheby's auction rooms next week is a small oil painting, showing a lady of calm demeure sitting in her finery regarding the artist with a steady gaze as if wondering what else must do to make a living.

She has rather pronounced Garfield eyelids and her nose is as long and sharp as a gimlet. She is not a beauty but she radiates an alert intelligence. Though her hair is parted severely in the middle and tamed down as though with Brylcreem, there is a hint of skittishness in the gold fillet that adorns her head. Her shoulders are bare and the sleeves of her princessy blue satin dress puff out over bare arms; there is the merest suggestion of sensuality in the way her hands toy with one of the leaves of a pink rose, a hint of luxury about the black lace shawl and the wristwatch-like bijou on her wrist.

A clever, thirtysomething early-Victorian, you would guess, sufficiently well-heeled to afford silks, satins, gold rings and other material comforts (such as a portrait painter) but too smart to be beguiled by them for long. A woman forced by fashion into this debutante's get-up, with its 18-inch waist and tartly décolletage, like a Giselle don ill-advisedly persuaded to go to a fancy-dress party as a shepherdess.

Who is she? Why, she is Mary Shelley, creator of one of the great myths of near-humanity, author of *Frankenstein*. Until now, the only likeness of her in existence has been little, something from a Hammer Horror film.

It's in the National Portrait Gallery, and shows her as a frightening old crone in a dowdy black dress, probably because she was still in mourning for Percy Shelley, her husband, who drowned in 1822. The painting at Sotheby's apparently turned up in 1958 in a trunkful of theatrical props (probably once owned by the poet's son) sold in a South Kensington saleroom for 18 shillings, but never offered for sale until now.

Both paintings are by Richard Rothwell, an Irish artist who painted her several times between 1831



The old Mary Shelley, (left) shows a crosspatch, perhaps with a sick streak, while the new painting shows an intelligent woman ill-at-ease with fashion NPG; Sotheby's

and 1840, though none but these survive. It's remarkable how he contrived to paint two such different versions of the same woman - but the Sotheby's picture was probably done when she had emerged from mourning. Though she apparently hated sitting for portraits, Mary was a game bird who went to parties in her forties dressed in pure white, despite a disfiguring attack of smallpox.

But what's really interesting are the assumptions we make about people, from considering their likenesses.

For 160 years, since the NPG picture was first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1840, people assumed that the woman who wrote about a man who creates a monster - made from charnel-bones, hideous, homicidal and terminally depressed - must be a melancholy baggage with a sick and probably evil streak, and a death wish to boot; they looked at the picture of Shelley in her widow's weeds and said: "Of course..."

Now they can look at the second picture and see a quite different woman - one who was simply ill-at-ease with her looks and intelligence, uncomfortable in her own body, which sat so oddly in the fashions of the day, a woman who looked for some kind of harmony between the way she felt and what the world saw when it looked at her.



MARTIN ROWSON'S GORDON BROWN
INSPIRED BY THESE PICTORIAL LUCUBRATIONS, I WENT TO POLITICO'S BOOKSHOP IN VICTORIA LAST WEEK, WHERE A HANDFUL OF MPs WAS "CELEBRATING" THE GENIUS OF MARTIN ROWSON, THE SAVAGELY BRILLIANT CARTOONIST OF FAMOUS PARLIAMENTARY FACES. THE WALLS AND SHELVES OF THE SHOP WERE FILLED WITH EXAMPLES OF ROWSON'S GROTESQUE DEMOLITIONS OF MESSRS BLAIR, BROWN, MANDELSON AND THE WHOLE NEW LABOUR CAMP - BUT ODDLY, NONE OF THIS CULTURE OF GENIAL INSULT SEEMED TO AWAKE ANYTHING BUT AESTHETIC RAPTURE IN THE BREASTS OF THE LABOURITES GATHERED THERE.

MR ROWSON IS AN UNRECONSTRUCTED LEFT-WING KINDA GUY, WHO WRITES LEARNED REVIEWS OF OTHER

PEOPLE'S ARTISTIC WORK AND SITS ON HEAVYWEIGHT COMMITTEES LIKE THE BOARD OF LONDON ZOO BUT CONFINES HIS ANARCHIC, SATIRICO-POLITICAL ANALYSES OF THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER TO THE MEDIUM OF PEN AND INK. AND GOODNESS, HOW THEY LOVE HIM FOR IT.

THE INVITATIONS WERE SEEN BY DENIS MACSHANE, THE EFFERVESCENT LABOUR MP, WHO TOLD ME: "IN 200 YEARS' TIME THEY'LL BE TALKING ABOUT ROWSONS THE WAY WE TALK ABOUT GILBERT AND ROWLANDSONS".

PETER MANDELSON WAS DEPICTED ON THE INVITATIONS AS AN 18TH CENTURY GRANDEE, STALKING THE RUINS OF CIVILISATION, CLAD IN FROCK COAT, KNEE BOOTS, KNOBBY CANE AND LORGNETTES AND REVEALING HIS NASTY LITTLE PIRANHA TEETH TO THE HAPLESS CARTOONIST GROVELLING BEFORE HIM. ROWSON, INTERESTINGLY, CANNOT DRAW HIMSELF LIKE ANY CONVICTION.

IN HIS SPEECH, MANDELSON WAS GUARDED IN HIS PRAISE: "WHAT ARE THE GOOD THINGS ONE CAN SAY ABOUT MARTIN? WELL, FOR ONE THING, HE'S NOT STEVE BELL..." BUT RADIATED THAT UNCERTAINLY LOSING HUMOUR THAT PASSES FOR MATEYNESSE AMONG ENGLISH INTELLECTUALS.

ON THE WALL WAS A GRUESOME LUNGPON OF GORDON BROWN WITH TWO FACES, ONE ON HIS HEAD, ONE ON HIS ARSE. "COMETH THE POLITICAL INTENSITY," EXPLAINED AN MP, "COMETH THE POLITICAL CARTOONIST." "HE'S ONLY DONE ME ONCE, ACTUALLY, AS DOLLY THE SHEEP," SAID DENIS MACSHANE. "I

WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A NEW LABOUR CLONE, HA HA, THAT SORT OF THING. I APPEARED ONCE IN THE GUARDIAN, WITH BUCK TEETH, NO HAIR, HUMMLER GLASSES AND NO NOSE AND EDWINA CURRIE SAID, 'YOU'VE ONLY BEEN AN MP FOR SIX MONTHS. MOST OF YOUR COLLEAGUES WOULD DIE TO APPEAR IN A SLOT LIKE THIS."

WHAT IS ALL THIS? CAN'T ANYONE RESPOND WITH A DISLIKE, OR HORROR, OR IRRITATION OR HURT PRIDE TO THE FACT THAT THEY'VE JUST BEEN INSULTED AND RIDICULISED IN PUBLIC? CAN'T ANYONE MARSHAL SUFFICIENT BALLS TO ACCUSE MR ROWSON OF TREACHERY TO THE LABOUR CAUSE, OR BAD TASTE (AS THE PRESS USED ROUTINELY TO VILIFY GERALD SCARFE, SAY, FOR DEPICTING MRS THATCHER AS "TOP BITCH" COMPLETE WITH DOG TURDS) OR JUST COMMON VULGAR ABUSE? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR CAPACITY FOR PERSONAL OUTRAGE?

"POLITICIANS WHO COMPLAIN ABOUT CARTOONS ARE LIKE A DINER AT MARCO PIERRE WHITE'S WHO COMPLAINS HE HASN'T HAD A SQUARE MEAL," SAID DENIS MACSHANE, MYSTIFYINGLY. WEREN'T THERE ANY ARTISTS HE WAS AFRAID OF? "ONLY THE ONES WITH CAMERAS," SAID A PASSING WOMAN, SMARTLY.

I THINK SHE'D CRACKED IT.

I'M TREMENDOUSLY EXCITED TO READ ABOUT 12, MOROZEKA STREET, THE GRIPPING NEW RUSSIAN TV DRAMA SET

RIES, SET IN THE GLAMOROUS, FAST-MOVING WORLD OF TAX INSPECTORS. IT'S BEEN HAILED BY THE GOVNING AUTHORITIES AS A USEFUL ALIY IN THE WAR TO PERSUADE THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE TO PAY THEIR TAXES.

EACH WEEK, SEVERAL MILLION DOGTERS AND EVADERS WILL SIT ON THEIR EX-COLLECTIVE-FARM SOFA, BOTTLE OF STOLICHNAYA FROZEN ON ITS WAY TO THEIR MOUTHS, RIVETED BY THE EXPLOITS OF MAJOR NIKITA ARIOL AND CAPTAIN DMITRI RUSANOV, WHO I SEE AS A URALS VERSION OF INSPECTOR MORSE AND SERGEANT LEWIS ("DO TRY TO KEEP UP, RUSANOV..."). THEY WILL DEMONSTRATE THE ESSENTIAL CRIMINALITY OF THE NON-TAXPAYERS AND THE DECENCY OF THE FISCAL PILOT. IS IT TOO LATE TO HAVE IT OVER HERE?

A SERIES CALLED THE INLAND (AS IN THE BILL) IS LONG OVERDUE. YOU CAN JUST SEE IT: THE SAUCY BANTER AT THE ACCOUNTS OFFICE IN SHIPLEY, AS TERRY AND JULIE HAVE A LAUGH OVER ESTIMATED LIABILITY... THE SCREECH OF TIRES IN THE THIRD EPISODE ("SELF ASSESSMENT - FINAL REMINDER") AS DEL AND BARRY CALL ON MRS NESBIT OF CARSHALTON... THE FEARSOME ENFORCER CLEGG, WHO HAS A PERSONALISED RUBBER STAMP BEARING THE WORDS "AUTOMATIC SURCHARGE"...

THE GRUFF, SEEN-IT-ALL DEPARTMENT BOSS, WITHERSPOON, AND HIS OBSESSIVE LIFE-LONG HATRED OF PAYE...

PERHAPS CHANNEL FOUR WOULD LIKE TO BINGE A GRAND FOR THE IDEA. CASH ONLY. OOPS. WHAT HAVE I SAID?

RIGHT OF REPLY

JOHN JUKES



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC AUXILIARY BISHOP IN SOUTHWARK ANSWERS ACCUSATIONS OF INTOLERANCE ON THE PART OF THE POPE

THE PURPOSE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II'S LETTER, "TO GUARD THE FAITH", IS CLEAR; IT IS TO MAKE GOOD A DEFECT IN THE CURRENT LAW OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THE LAW OF THE CHURCH REQUIRES A "PROFESSION OF FAITH" FROM PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THREE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF TRUTH. IN SOME CASES THE TRUTH IS SEEN TO BE ROOTED IN THE DIRECT WORDS AND TEACHING OF CHRIST, WHICH HAVE BEEN DECLARED AS SUCH BY THE TEACHING AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH; FOR THIS, THAT IS CALLED THE "ASSENT OF FAITH" IS REQUIRED.

THE SECOND LEVEL DERIVES FROM THE FIRST, AND HAS BEEN DEFINITELY TAUGHT AS SUCH: FOR THIS LEVEL A FIRM ASSENT IS REQUIRED BASED UPON THE PROMISED GUIDANCE OF THE CHURCH BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

THE THIRD LEVEL DERIVES THOSE TRUTHS WHICH ARE TAUGHT BY THE CHURCH AS SUPPORTIVE OR DERIVED FROM OTHER TRUTHS THAT HAVE BEEN DEFINITELY TAUGHT: SUCH TRUTHS REQUIRE THE ASSENT OF THE MIND AND WILL, ACCORDING TO HOW THE TRUTHS ARE DECLINED.

I AM WELL AWARE HOW THIS KIND OF APPROACH DOES NOT SIT EASILY WITH THE SPIRIT OF INDIVIDUALISM, SO, CHARACTERISTIC OF OUR TIMES.

AN UNPREJUDICED OBSERVER OF THESE MATTERS WILL NOTE THAT THE CLAIM MADE IN THE INDEPENDENT'S LEADING ARTICLE OF ADDED INTOLERANCE BY THE POPE'S LETTER IS QUITE WITHOUT FOUNDATION. WHAT THE POPE HAS DONE IS TO CLARIFY FOR ROMAN CATHOLICS THE IMPLICATIONS OF MAKING THE PROFESSION OF FAITH. HOW ADDED CLARITY CAN BE INTERPRETED AS FUELLED INTEGRITY, I FAIL TO SEE.

OF COURSE, IF ONE IS UNABLE TO ACCEPT THE CLAIM OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH TO BE COMMISSIONED BY JESUS CHRIST TO TEACH THE TRUTH TO ALL NATIONS, THEN WE ENTER A VERY DIFFERENT DEBATE.

Life with cadavers and other stories



MONDAY BOOK

BLOODLINES: REAL LIVES IN A GREAT BRITISH HOSPITAL
BY ANDREW DAVISON
LITTLE, BROWN, £16.99

THE MOST arresting sentence in this book occurs on page 191. It reads: "Working in a mortuary had got him more girlfriends than it had ever lost him." That is a novel way to increase one's pulling power, it has to be said. Re-arranging the internal organs of corpses, after the pathologists have had their turn, is not the most obvious subject of candle-lit dinner chat. But Bill, the morgue technician at St Thomas's, knows something that most of us don't. Death fascinates.

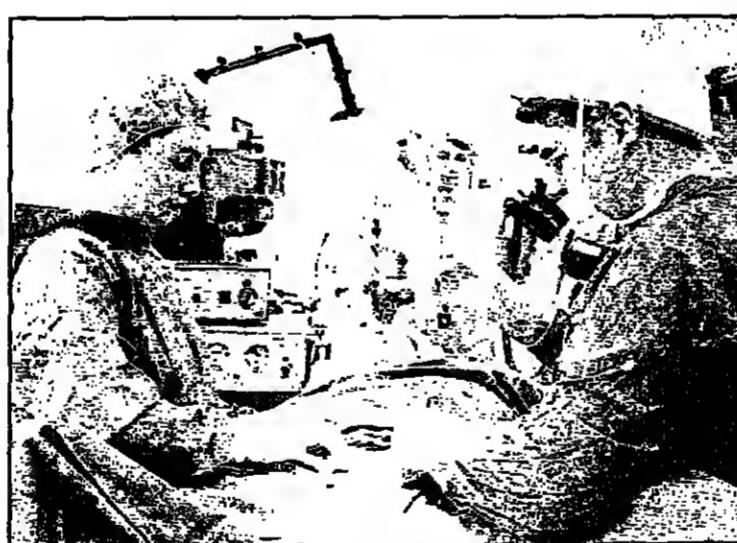
Perhaps most of us do. What else explains the extraordinary success of programmes such as ER and Casualty? Simply that we don't own up to our curiosity about death? Bill does. When people ask him about his job he is always straight with them. More often than not they are immediately hooked and want to know more. That is how he struck me, too. The account of Bill's lonely life among the cadavers is the most gripping in the book: 16 fridges with space for six bodies each or 96 corpses at full capacity - more if you include the one at the end which holds the babies and foetuses. They take less space.

Although he is never seen by the public - even when relatives come to view their loved ones he always puts the body out and then makes himself scarce - he is prepared to share the secrets of his trade. He estimates he has seen up 14,000 cadavers in his career. "I am a scientist," he says. For his own sanity, he prefers to remain detached from the fives of the people he is handling.

It is a pity that the account of Bill's

working day does not begin this somewhat breathy portrait of two great London hospitals which were forced, complainingly, together to create one trust - until recently the largest in the NHS. It would have made a more affecting beginning than the clichéd account of casualty doctor Jim and his world-weary style of dealing with the mad, the sad and the wounded who seem to have walked straight off a hospital docu-drama set. Come to that, the book reads like a script for Casualty. Short scenes intercut, trace overlapping storylines - and lead, ultimately, nowhere.

Andrew Davidson spent many hours shadowing everyone from the chief executive to the cleaner. The hospital is seen through their eyes. As a tale, it races along - which cannot be said for the many weighty tomes pub-



LISHED TO MARK THE NHS'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY - AND OFFERS SOME ILLUMINATING GLIMPSES OF MEDICAL PRACTICE AT THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

I wondered if it was a morbid streak in me that the section on Bill and his bodies appealed to. I don't

think so. The morgue is the only part of the hospital that still remains closed to public view. As the book makes clear: most days the hospital is crawling with TV crews, reporters, visiting dignitaries and the like, but it is a safe bet that the busy PR de-

partment gets few requests for access to the morgue. It remains secret, unvisited, unknown. Strange that, since seven out of ten of us will die in hospital and pass through the bank of fridges - or one very like it.

DEATH PERMEATES THIS BOOK, AND NOT JUST BECAUSE IT IS ABOUT DOCTORS, PATIENTS AND DISEASE. FOR MOST OF THE PERIOD DURING WHICH IT WAS WRITTEN - BETWEEN 1994 AND 1998 - GUY'S AND ST THOMAS'S WERE LOCKED IN A STRUGGLE FOR THEIR OWN SURVIVAL. GUY'S HAD BEEN THE TORY GOVERNMENT'S FLAGSHIP TRUST, THE TEACHING HOSPITAL THAT LED THE INTERNAL MARKET IN 1991. WHEN, 18 MONTHS LATER, SIR BERNARD TOMLINSON'S REVIEW OF LONDON'S HOSPITALS RECOMMENDED THAT IT OR ST THOMAS'S SHOULD CLOSE - BEING LITTLE MORE THAN A MILE APART - THE CONSULTANTS AT GUY'S WERE CONFIDENT THAT IT WOULD BE THEIR NEIGHBOURS UP THE RIVER WHO WOULD GET THE CHOP.

INSTEAD, THE HOSPITALS WERE MERGED AND LEFT TO FIGHT IT OUT AMONG THEMSELVES. GUY'S LOST. THE REPERCUSSIONS OF THAT BRUISING ENCOUNTER ARE STILL BEING FELT. DEPARTMENTS, CONSULTANTS AND MANAGERS JOCKEY FOR POSITION AS THE TRUST REARRANGES ITSELF TO PROVIDE A MAJOR ACUTE HOSPITAL AT ST THOMAS'S AND AN OUT-PATIENT AND DAY-CASE CENTRE AT GUY'S. IT HAS SAPPED MORALE AND PROVIDED ENDLESS HEADACHES FOR THE BELEAGUERED CHIEF EXECUTIVE, TIM MATTHEWS, WHOSE SURVIVAL CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO A NATURALLY EMOLlient PERSONALITY AND A CAPACITY TO ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES.

BUT WHILE THE SQUABBLING CONTINUES, THE NHS IS CHANGING - AND THE FUTURE IS NOT HOSPITAL-SHAPED. TELEMEDICINE, WALK-IN CLINICS AND CONSULTATIONS OVER THE INTERNET ARE ALREADY HERE. ONE REASON TO BE GRATEFUL FOR THIS BOOK IS THAT IT COULD BE THE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO CHART THE MANY LIVES OF A GREAT BRITISH HOSPITAL.

JEREMY LAURANCE

MONDAY POEM

EXILE

BY MBELLA SONNE DIPOKO (CAMEROON)

In silence
The overloaded canoe leaves our shores

But who are those soldiers in camouflage,
These clouds going to rain in foreign lands?

The night is losing its treasures

The future seems a myth
Warped on a loom worked by lazy hands.

But perhaps all is not without some good for us
As from the door of a shack a thousand miles away

The scaly hand of a child takes in greeting

The long and skinny fingers of the rain.

Our poems this week come from the new edition of "The Penguin Book of Modern African Poetry", edited by Gerald Moore and Ulli Beier (Penguin, £9.99).

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Rudy Narayan

RUDY NARAYAN was Britain's most controversial and flamboyant black lawyer. His contribution to the state of race relations in Britain was viewed by many as extremist. However despite his faults he was difficult to dislike, and he is guaranteed a prominent place in black British history because of his incredible history of winning seemingly hopeless cases.

At his peak he was the undisputed heavyweight legal champion of Britain's ethnic minority communities. He was one of the most charismatic and eloquent trial lawyers practising at the Criminal Bar. He had a dynamic, fearless and committed approach to defending suspects. His devotion to the cause of advancing his client's case "by any means necessary" earned him the reputation of being the Malcolm X of the Bar. His hallmark was ruthless and inflammatory cross-examination, which would often result in the complete destruction of a witness. He relished naming and shaming anyone he suspected to be a racist.

Narayan was born in Guyana in 1938, the ninth of ten children, to an Indian trading family. He arrived in Britain at the age of 15. After serving as a sergeant in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps he decided to become a barrister. He went on to found and become the first president of the Bar's students' union in 1966. The following year he captained the team of Court Cricket Club, and in 1968 was called to the Bar.

During the late Seventies and early Eighties he won trial after trial often against all the odds. He specialised in cases where confrontation between the police and the black community was at its worst. The examples are too numerous to list but include the Bradford 12, the Man-grove Nine, Thornton Heath 10, and cases arising from the so-called



black riots in inner-city areas around Britain in the early 1980s. He was one of the most sought-after criminal defence barristers in the country.

Narayan excelled as an advocate right from the start and this earned him the respect and envy of his peers in the Bar. However before long he realised it would be almost impossible to survive playing by conventional rules. This was partly due to the fact that solicitors had no system for fair allocation of work to barristers. Consequently black barristers rarely received work of any quality or volume.

Narayan became enraged when he learned that requests from the public for his services were being blocked. This was one of his primary reasons for devoting his life to fighting the establishment. Ultimately this fight was won because it led to an amendment to the Race Relations Act in 1985. Barristers now have some measure of protection against racial discrimination by solicitors.

Sensing that he would not survive and thrive within the constraints of the rules of the Bar - which he considered were devised by white supremacists - Narayan seized every opportunity to create his own rules, and invented systems to overcome the obstacles placed in his way by the legal establishment.

He became a community activist and forged direct links with communities in places such as Brixton, Handsworth, Bristol, Bradford and Manchester. He promoted his own style of community development by creating organisations such as the Lambeth Law Centre, the Society of Black Lawyers, Black Rights UK, Brixton Legal Defence Committee and Civil Rights UK.

He also seized every opportunity to put himself about and make inflammatory public statements. Indeed he went so far as to try and stand for election for all three

main political parties at different times.

Narayan was also an author, producing books such as *Black Community on Trial* (1976), *Black England* (1977), *Barrister for the Defence* (1985), *Black Silk* (1985) and *When Judges Conspire* (1989). One of the most provocative was *Blacks Over England* (1995). This was a satirical fantasy based on the idea of blacks seizing control of England and all its most powerful institutions, then using them to settle old scores with whites. In it the Queen is portrayed as Diane Abbott, the prime minister as Darcus Howe, the Home Secretary as Bernie Grant, the Commissioner of the Police as Winston Silcott, the Lord Chancellor as Keith Vaz, and the Lord Chief Justice as Peter Herbert.

Narayan's rule-bending and inflammatory advocacy lead to many famous confrontations with the legal establishment. In 1974 he was suspended for six months for alleging that Birmingham solicitors, barristers and judges were racist. In 1982 he accused the Attorney General and DPP of collusion with the National Front. Four years later he sued the Lord Chancellor (Lord Hailsham) and three judges for racial prejudice.

Ultimately his refusal to play the game according to the established rules cost him the opportunity to become Britain's first black QC. His supporters believe that the pressure of the fight against systematic racial discrimination contributed to the gradual erosion of his health and sanity in the latter years of his life.

In 1991 he left for Guyana to start a new life, but returned shortly afterwards.

Narayan had an incredible sense of timing even in death: he died on the eve of the appearance of the suspects at the inquiry into the racially motivated murder of Stephen Lawrence. Marcus Garvey said: "Leadership means many things: pain, suffering - even death". The brilliance of Rudy Narayan the lovable rogue will be long and fondly remembered.

Chris Bootman

NO ONE who met Rudy Narayan was ever neutral about him, writes Lincoln Crawford. His passion about a whole range of issues, from politics to the legal profession, either drew you to him or drove you away from him.

He had set out to try and solve three problems: that of race discrimination within the legal profession, harassment by the police and social exclusion, but he drove away many people from the establishment whom he needed to cultivate, and to that extent he failed as an activist.

However, that failure was in the eyes of a whole generation of disadvantaged and disillusioned blacks the very quality which drew them to Rudy. The fact that he lacked political skill was secondary. They saw him as a man who was not establishment, but radical and uncompromising, with some of the same flaws in his personal character as they had. Above all he was committed to their cause and prepared to stand up to anyone who interfered with their rights.

At times we were all judged harshly by Rudy. He saw himself as the legitimate standard bearer of the cause of black people and everyone else as compliant establishment figures. This caused tension but there was always respect for the man who was always there, never tired, always willing to fight.

If Rudy failed as an activist, he was extremely successful as an advocate of the cause of black people. The courtroom was his stage and advocacy was his trade, which he used to great effect in cross-examining police officers who found it easy to arrest and detain black youths during the dark days of the "SUS Law".

To see him perform in court was not only to witness a man in command of his facts, but to witness someone who was able to probe the often mendacious accounts given by some officers, who were reduced to gibbering wrecks by the time he had finished with them. He also made it easier for those of us who came after him. He challenged both the Bar and solicitors to recognise that there were young blacks with talent and ability who were not being given a fair chance. Eventually some of us were given a voice. Some attention is now being paid to the fact that many black lawyers are disadvantaged through race discrimination.

Sadly, Rudy did not reap the benefit of his work, nor did he entirely succeed in the three aims he set out to achieve. But his persistent challenge to the establishment has made it easier for black people to present their case for change.

Rudy Narayan, lawyer: born 11 May 1938; married 1970 Dr Naseem Albar (two daughters; marriage dissolved); died London 28 June 1998.



Guzelian (left on the lap of a nanny), boating on Coniston Lake as a child; with her are her sisters Taqui and Susie; all became characters in *Swallows and Amazons*

Mavis Guzelian

MAVIS GUZELIAN was the third of the five Altounyan children made famous by Arthur Ransome as the joint dedicatees for his first and best sailing adventure story, *Swallows and Amazons* (1931). Because of her early love for Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Mrs Tittlemouse*, she was known in Ransome's story as well as in life as Titty (later changed when the story was televised for children to "Kitty").

Always the most imaginative of Ransome's characters, she is typically depicted dreaming of being marooned like Ben Gunn, attempting sorcery on the wax image of a particularly oppressive great aunt and doing her best to prospect for water with a dowsing twig. She is also shown as brave and resourceful, opting at only nine years old and with tears in her eyes to stay at a lonely night guard on the island where the children were camping rather than return to home comforts with mother.

The children first met Ransome in 1928 when visiting their grandfather for a long stay in the Lake District. Their father, Ernest Altounyan, a half-Irish, half-Armenian doctor based in Syria, was married to Dora Collingwood, daughter of Ruskin's hi-

ographer W. G. Collingwood. Ransome and Altounyan bought two boats that summer, *Scallions* and *Mavis*, and set about teaching the children to sail on Coniston Lake.

Many of the family's adventures were to work their way into Ransome's subsequent fiction. Before leaving for Syria, the children presented him with a pair of red Turkish slippers. In return, they eventually received through the post a copy of *Swallows and Amazons* hearing the dedication, "For the six for whom it was written in exchange for a pair of slippers".

Ransome later stayed abroad with his family in Aleppo, using more of their ideas and joint sailing experiences for *Peter Duck* (1932) and *Winter Holiday* (1933). But like Lewis Carroll before him, he did not always appreciate the way that treasured child companions would insist on growing up and thinking for themselves. The relationship cooled over time, and when *Scallions* and *Amazons* was reissued in 1956, Ransome suppressed his original dedication, adding another denying that anyone other than himself possessed responsibility for the story. This act of petulance, encouraged

by Ransome's wife Eugenia (formerly Trotsky's secretary) was manifestly unjust. As a child, Mavis in particular had genuinely loved her "Uncle Arthur", writing him many longer letters full of potentially useful detail, and sometimes helping him with his drawings. There is a story that he at one time wanted to adopt her, but this fantastical suggestion could not have been offered seriously. Mavis's father always had a particular regard for her, especially when it became clear to this art-loving doctor that she was going to develop into a gifted painter.

Mavis later studied at Chelsea School of Art under Henry Moore, interrupted by a war-time stint working for a news agency in Jerusalem. She was a star pupil and much was expected of her but such great hopes worked against an adult personality always inclined to lack self-confidence. Although a practising artist for the rest of her life, a stubborn perfectionism never allowed her to value the work she did. The portraits were usually given away for nothing; her abstract paintings remained unappreciated. She never attempted to go commercial in the way she could easily have

done, having returned to the Lake District and bearing a name that still meant so much to fans of Ransome and of the Lakes in general.

By this time Mavis had married Melkon Guzelian, a refugee from Armenia whom she met in Syria when she was helping run the hospital founded by her grandfather. Political pressures grew, and father and daughter were ordered out of the country they had done so much to serve with only 24 hours notice.

Back in Britain, Mavis and husband moved with her parents back to Lancashire, her childhood home in the Lake District. Melkon worked as a motor mechanic in Windermere and the couple had three children. One daughter, born with Down's Syndrome, had permanent problems walking and talking. She was doted on by her parents, and was an inevitable drain on the time Mavis could have been painting; she died aged 29.

In later life, Mavis turned against her British as opposed to her Armenian roots. She sometimes said she would prefer living the simple life back in Syria, and came to dislike the Lake District particularly when it was sunny and, to others, looking a treat. She also lost her love

of sailing, and regretted her early identification with the golden child of Ransome's imagination, increasingly resisting being what she described as "Tittyish" in order to satisfy the expectations of others. But her sister Brigid Sanders insists that as a child she was just like the Titty of the books with her fierce intelligence and lively imagination.

Mavis Guzelian was strongly self-critical and like her brother Roger severely asthmatic. Her life was not fulfilled in the way most wanted, which was to become an artist of the highest rank. But she leaves a legacy of kindness to others and devotion to those most close to her. During her last four difficult months she was looked after night and day by her husband, to whom she was married for 44 years, after a bad fall following severe heart problems had returned her to the childhood state with which, in the public imagination, she will always be associated.

Nicholas Tucker

Mavis Altounyan, artist: born Aleppo, Syria 22 May 1926; married 1954 Melkon Guzelian (one son, one daughter, and one daughter deceased); died 3 July 1998.

General Lev Rokhlin

GENERAL LEV ROKHLIN was a soldier. With the exception of the last three years, his entire career was spent in the Soviet and then Russian armed forces. He participated in two of Moscow's most brutal wars - in Afghanistan and Chechnya - and served in the occupying forces in East Germany.

On retirement in 1995 he turned to politics. Even then, as chairman of the Defence Committee of the Russian parliament, he campaigned for greater resources for the armed forces and military industry at a time when the army was disintegrating. Having survived war, he was to die of a single bullet at the hands of his wife, Tamara.

Rokhlin came to prominence at the start of the Chechen war. He was appointed commander of the Northern Group based in Mozdok, one of three groups that led the assault on Chechnya in December 1994. His forces were mainly made up of the 8th Army Corps and the 131st In-

dependent Motor Rifle Brigade. In January, after a month of slow progress against bitter Chechen resistance, Rokhlin led troops in the capture of Grozny airport.

Throughout the battle for the Chechen capital he refused all appeals by the Chechen military com-mander Aslan Maskhadov for talks to bring the fighting to a halt. Although the Russian forces scarcely distinguished themselves in the chaotic and brutal assault on the rebel republic, Rokhlin gained praise from the Russian leadership for his military skills. However he refused to accept the award Hero of Russia.

He was born in Central Asia in 1947, and seemed destined for a career in the Soviet Army despite his Jewish ancestry. He completed the Tashkent Higher All-Service Command School in 1970 and went on to study at the prestigious Frunze Military Academy in Moscow. He was successively commander of a motorised infantry platoon, company battalion, regiment and division in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, and the Leningrad, Turkestan and Transcaucasian Military Districts. In the mid-1980s he served in the occupying forces in Afghanistan, where he saw plenty of combat action.

After helping bring Grozny back

into Russian hands and being posted back to Volgograd later in 1995, Rokhlin retired from active service and turned to politics. In the December 1995 elections to the lower house of the Russian parliament, the State Duma, he stood successfully as the number three candidate on the national list for Our Home is Russia, the party of the then prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The following month Rokhlin became chairman of the Duma Defence Committee, which he increasingly used as a platform to oppose President Yeltsin's plans to reform the demoralised Russian military, especially in the wake of the sacking as defence minister of Igor Rodionov in May 1997.

That September he was expelled from Our Home is Russia after continuing to protest at Yeltsin's army reforms, believing they would destroy the once-mighty Russian forces. He even urged soldiers to disobey orders coming from the Kremlin.

lin. The party tried to remove him as chairman of the Defence Committee, accusing him of making it too politicised, but he hung on with support from Communist deputies.

Rokhlin accused the leadership of trying to discredit him physically. He set up his own Movement in Support of the Army and Military Industry, one of whose chief aims was to remove Yeltsin from office. Last May he finally lost the chairmanship of the Defence Committee. He became increasingly fond of the bottle, and was shot dead at his country home near Moscow by his wife, apparently with a gun presented to him by the former Defence Minister Pavel Grachev for his feats in Chechnya.

Felix Corley

Lev Yakovlevich Rokhlin, soldier and politician: born Aralsk, Kazakhstan 6 June 1947; married (one son, one daughter); died Naro-Fominsk, Russia 3 July 1998.

Clarence Pell

CLARENCE PELL won the United States Racquets Amateur Doubles Championship eight times between 1937 and 1959. His partner was Robert "Bobby" Grant, the many-times American amateur singles champion. Pell himself won the US Amateur Singles Championship in 1958.

Son of the great American racquets champion C.C. Pell, Clarence Pell was an important figure in the history of racquets and court tennis in America. He served on the board of directors of the Racquet and Tennis Club of New York from 1952 to 1997 and acted as an officer for many years. He was governor of the Beaver Dam Winter Sports Club in Locust Valley, New York, for 51 years, 16 as president.

In his later years he retired to Rhode Island, in order to further his ambition of restoring the court tennis court in Newport. He became the first president of the National Tennis Court, as it became known, and as such became important in the promotion of the game in the United States.

Court tennis, also known as royal tennis or real tennis, is the fore-runner to most racquet games. It has an intricate scoring system and is played on an indoor court. The most famous example of a real tennis court is the one built for Henry VIII at Hampton Court Palace in Surrey.

Pell was descended from the Englishman Sir John Pell, former owner of what is now Westchester County in New York State. Sir John had sold 6,000 acres to the French Huguenot founders of the city of New

Rochelle for £1,525. Part of the 1689 contract stipulated that the city fathers would pay the Pell family "one Fat Cafe". Clarence Pell took part in several ceremonies to commemorate his ancestor's role in the establishment of the city.

Although racquets proved too fast a game for Pell in his later years, he continued playing and teaching court tennis with great enthusiasm well into his eighties. He was last on the court two weeks before his death.

W. L. Van Aken

Clarence Cecil Pell, racquet and court tennis player: born New York 26 October 1911; married 1969 Francesca Hinckley (two sons, one daughter); died Providence, Rhode Island 12 May 1998.



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Finding a 'lost tribe' is an anthropologist's dream. And an ethical nightmare. But this does not deter the 'idealists' who seek them out in the jungles of Peru and Brazil. By John Hemming

Do these people need our 20th century?

Earlier this year, the Brazilian Indian expert, Sydney Possuelo, was flying over unexplored forested hills in the very remote region where south-western Brazil meets Peru when, by pure chance, he noticed a group of thatched huts half-hidden beneath the endless canopy of the tropical rain forest. This was the first sighting of an uncontacted tribe of people still called Indians because Columbus, five centuries ago, thought that he had discovered the edge of India. Possuelo works for FUNAI, the Brazilian government's Indian agency – indeed, he used to run FUNAI, but preferred to return from the bureaucracy of Brasilia to fieldwork among the indigenous peoples themselves.

Possuelo had known about the existence of this tribe, because warriors from an unknown group had killed some isolated rubber-tappers and had raided the Ashaninka tribe to the west in Peru. But he has no plans to make a contact with the village he happened to spot. As yet, these Indians are sufficiently remote to be under little threat from the advance of Brazil's modern society.

I have visited or lived with over 40 tribes in many parts of Brazil, and four of these visits were at the time of their first contact with our aggressive world. So I have seen the full gamut of the process known as "acculturation". It ranges from hunter-gatherers who have almost no stone implements, to tribes that are distinguishable from surrounding Brazilian farmers only in their language, communal way of life and a few traditional customs.

I have also been in the field with some of the great *sertanistas*, the elite of the Indian service who are sent to make contact with unknown tribes. The most famous of these is Orlando Villas Boas, the last survivor of three brothers who devoted their lives to the protection of Indians. Each *sertanista* has a slightly different style of making a contact. But the process is always similar: neighbouring tribes tell about an uncontacted group and help in the very difficult task of finding one of its trails or village clearings in the immense expanse of unexplored forests.

The attraction team then leaves presents. These are always metal blades – machetes, axes, knives – because the cutting power of sharp metal is miraculous to people who have only stone axes and bone or wooden blades. There may also be beads, mirrors or metal cooking pots. Fish-hooks come later, because their use has to be explained. If all goes well, the presents will be removed and gifts of bows and arrows left in their place.

After months, even years, the tribe will emerge from its forests for the first face-to-face contact. This is a traumatic moment. The Indians

usually want peace with our tribe, but they are rightly suspicious of our intentions. A false move at the moment of contact will result in a lethal shower of arrows, shot by the world's finest archers. The attraction team contains Indians speaking the main indigenous languages of Brazil, and chances are that the newly contacted group will speak a variant of one of these – although some tribal languages are linguistically isolated.

The four groups I saw at this initial stage all reacted differently to the shattering experience. The Surui had suffered at the hands of isolated *criollos*, so they allowed only their warriors to be seen, and these kept their bows and arrows with them at all times. Two other groups, some Nambikwara from the Galera River and a tribe of Parakanas, tried to learn about our strange ways and belongings, but they were in a state of shock. By contrast, the Asurini treated us almost like gods, trying to give us all their few belongings, and even their pet parakeets and monkeys.

The people who make these con-

The first face-to-face contact is a traumatic moment. A false move will result in a lethal shower of arrows

tacts are idealists. They endure the hardships and dangers of their explorations because they want to help indigenous people. I have seen all of them agonise about the morality of what they are doing.

Like Sydney Possuelo, they want to leave a tribe in isolation for as long as possible. They hate to violate the Edenic simplicity of a native society. They know that its diet, health and well-being will be better if it continues its ancient way of life of hunting, fishing, gathering and farming in temporary forest clearings. All of this is environmentally sustainable.

Tribal groups keep their populations small to remain within the hunting capacity of the surrounding forests. If their numbers grow, they can easily split and form another village far distant, for they are completely self-sufficient.

But Brazil is a nation of 160 million people and its settlement frontier is inevitably expanding into the Amazon forests. So the time comes when an isolated tribe is threatened by gold or diamond prospectors who advance far up rapid-infested rivers, or by rubber tappers or loggers pushing into unexplored forests, or by a "penetration road" being cut into a remote region. The tough pioneers on these ventures are likely to shoot first if they meet an Indian; and even when well-intentioned, they are untrained in

Newly-contacted tribes are at risk from disease and exploitation, but can they remain in isolation? Much depends on who reaches them first – tough pioneers or FUNAI professionals

dealing with people of such totally different societies. This is when FUNAI's professionals have to try to get there first. If they can achieve a peaceful contact, they have two urgent tasks: to provide continuing medical protection against our diseases (measles, tuberculosis, flu, yellow fever), against which the Indians have no inherent immunity; and to ascertain where the tribe lives, hunts and gathers, so that this territory can be described, surveyed and given protected status.

These measures can go wrong. Antonio Cotrim, the brilliant young *sertanista* who had contacted the Asurini, resigned when the promises he had made to them were broken. Medical attention to Cotrim's newly contacted tribes was inadequate, many dying in epidemics. Parts of their forests were stolen by speculators or invaded by squatters. In resigning, Cotrim declared he had

joined FUNAI to be a protector of Indians, not their grave-digger.

Even if the initial contact goes well, there are further ethical dilemmas. Missionaries want to bring their religion to the newly discovered group of human beings. Most missionaries are now very well-intentioned: their proselytising is restrained, and they bring good medical attention. But the Villas Boas brothers rigorously excluded missionaries from the dozen tribes they cared for on the upper Xingu River. As a result, the brothers were accused of operating a human zoo, and of keeping their charges in a form of social apartheid. I can vouch that this is not true. The Xingu Indians are in charge of their own affairs, and are free to adopt whatever they want from our society. Many wear clothes, and some like to have radios, footballs, and even bicycles to travel to their fields.

Further information: Survival, 11-15 Emerald Street, London WC1N 3QL. Tel: 0171-242 1441

joined FUNAI to be a protector of Indians, not their grave-digger.

The Villas Boas tried to restrict entry only of items that would damage native society: guns, which might lead to over-hunting, alcohol, and a few manufactured items that competed directly with tribal crafts. Their philosophy is to protect land and health, without which tribes rapidly disintegrate. Then, as Orlando Villas Boas says: "This allows them to change at the speed the Indians want, rather than at a rate imposed on them." The speed of acculturation varies between tribal communities. Some want no change, others request all possible education in the ways of the outside world. What matters is that tribes decide their own destinies. If this happens, the contact of an isolated group is worth while and morally justified.

Do not believe her. The ladies may have been reluctant to admit it, but they were fed up of being harassed on the roads and were eager to learn.

"I've been pushed off the road," said Bernadette Walker. "It's really aggressive, all those flashing lights and stuff. It's usually men."

"No women can just as bad," said her friend, Mary Coosey. "They can be in a real hurry even if they're just behind you in a small car."

Bernadette wasn't going to let any attacker walk all over her either. "You know you're

going to find your hairspray to spray at someone in the dark. Your courageous rapist isn't going to wait."

"Instead, make sure your doors are locked, your windows up, put your hazard lights on and sound the horn. If you have to fight someone, use the keys as a weapon in your fist or hit them with a rolled up newspaper."

Everyone squirmed as he described poking at the vulnerable area of the eyes, but the mood grew more enthusiastic as he demonstrated kicks. "Tracey here only got taught this kick five minutes ago and look how good she is now," he said. Tracey aimed a kick at the nervous Jason who was protected by a sponge pad. The women cheered. Jason was obviously regretting he wasn't in his car speeding away.

At the end of the evening the women were all much more positive. "I just hope that I remember it all," said one, obviously relishing the groin kick again. "Yeah I'm sure I will."

Back in the taxi, the driver was still expressing aggression. But it's unlikely that Mr Cuthbert and Mr Patel could have helped him: "What a @#\$ idiot. He must have been blind. Can you believe it? What were they doing? Why on earth did they let him pick Batty for that penalty?"

Alan Titchmarsh: Exposed!

continued from page one

wildlife correspondent. They're chucking an old car tyre in. Apparently, old car tyres are brilliant at the bottom of ponds, providing warmth and cover for aquatic wildlife. They're tossed in but refuses to sink. Everyone has a laugh. "Wonderful television!" the producer declares.

Alan does seem brilliantly middle of the road. His favourite TV programmes are *Inspector Morse* and the weather forecast. His favourite forecaster is Bill Giles because "he's got an allotment". His favourite meal is steak-and-kidney pudding followed by sherry trifle. He drives a Ford Fiesta. He likes P G Wodehouse. Aside from gardening, he's fond of boating. He does not seem especially complicated. Do you ever get depressed or unhappy, Alan? "Only

when I get bored." What bores you? "Anything repetitive. I do try to keep up with my post. But two hundred letters a week, accompanied by bits of rotting vegetation! Sometimes, I have to send out a standard card." However, he does have something of a dark side. One day last week, for instance, he was "in a pretty crummy mood and was quite snappy with everybody". Oh dear. "Yes. So the next day I had to go round saying 'Oh, sorry' to everyone." He can get angry at times, too. "I hate waste, I hate people stepping on plants." What do you do with your anger? "I also mean 'very black cabbages'."

He hated school. He was hopeless at everything, art, art, and being in school plays. In particular, he loathed sport. "I was like the boy in *Kes*. That was me, standing in goal, frozen and wet and not wanting to be there. I wasn't a nancy, though."

bringing back packets of Cuthbert's Seeds, as he did. Did he cry? "Out! Out! You big girl's blouse!" No, he did not, as it happens. His father, also called Alan, "was a lovely, gentle man" whose own father and grandfather had been gardeners. His maternal grandfather, Harry, was a keen gardener, too, with an allotment. "He had blackberries growing over a brass bedstead and a deep tank of soot water." Soot water? "Water mixed with soot, used to keep off pests." Unfortunately, though, it also meant "very black cabbages".

He hated school. He was hopeless at everything, art, art, and being in school plays. In particular, he loathed sport. "I was like the boy in *Kes*. That was me, standing in goal, frozen and wet and not wanting to be there. I wasn't a nancy, though."

By the time he was 11, he was growing geraniums in polythene bags and selling off mint for a penny a bunch. When he left school at 15, he did an apprenticeship in Ilkley Council's Parks department, followed by a horticultural college in Hertfordshire, then a three-year diploma course at Kew where he ended up a gardens supervisor. "I had my own key with Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew written on it," he replies, "and the Sixties' baby boom and the recession, which meant a lot of people decided to stay put and improve on what they had rather than move on." How does it feel, I ask, to know you're now something of an icon? "Well, the ladies do seem to like me. However, men don't. I think it's because they don't find enthusiasm sex."

We move on to do the photograph. We want Alan to take his top off. Alan tries hard not to be amiable. Top off, Alan! No! Yes! No! Yes! "OH, alright then." He does have a very good body. No, he doesn't diet or anything. "The gardening works it all off." His wife, who he met at 23 – while she was dancing and he was acting in the Barnes and Richmond Operatic Society's production of *Half a Sixpence* – walked by, out with their two Labradors. "Oh God, I'm dead now," says Alan. She says: "I'll pretend I'm not seeing this." I introduce myself. "Hello," I say. "I'm hot pants." She looks both alarmed and perplexed. On God, maybe she didn't see the fax after all. She marches off, while shooting quizzical looks over her shoulder. I think that pretty much scuppered my last chance of being invited in for a cup of tea.

Hurrah! On to the final *Gardener's World* item. This seems to consist of Alan crouching

charismatically by a bush and saying something like: "We won't be back next week, because the BBC have done it again. We've got to make way for the Proms. So see you in a fortnight..." There is some discussion about this. Should he say: "The BBC have done it again" (*Gardener's World* was also shifted for the World Cup.) Or will they get into trouble. "Look," Alan finally says bravely. "let's do it, and I'll take the back." In my new capacity as his PR, I suggest that instead, he says: "No *Gardener's World* next week, because I'm off to Amsterdam for a sex change. See you in a fortnight." "Shhhhhh," go the crew and producer. Alan goes: "Anyway, that's it for this week. I hope the sun shines on you. Whatever, enjoy your garden. Ta-ta." Ta, ta, Alan. Ta-ta.



How to avoid road rage: kick the driver

Or roll up this paper and hit him where it hurts. Glenda Cooper learns some hard lessons in self-defence

THE TAXI driver was almost puce. "What on earth is he doing? Oh for God's sake! What a @!# idiot! No idea." He turned to me. "Have you ever seen anything so stupid? HAVE YOU? HAVE YOU?"

There was a reason for this bout of road rage and it wasn't directed at anyone near. But as road rage becomes an ever-increasing phenomenon, steps are being taken to help women learn how to deal with it.

Last week, the first class in

what is hoped to be a stream across the country was held to teach women – and the odd man – how to deal with aggressive driving. Organised by AVF Communications, a consultancy for the motor industry, at a Volkswagen dealership in Romford, East London, "ladies" were taught how to avoid becoming victims.

"This is the first one we

hope to take it further," said "Pat" Patel, the area manager for London. "We hope it's

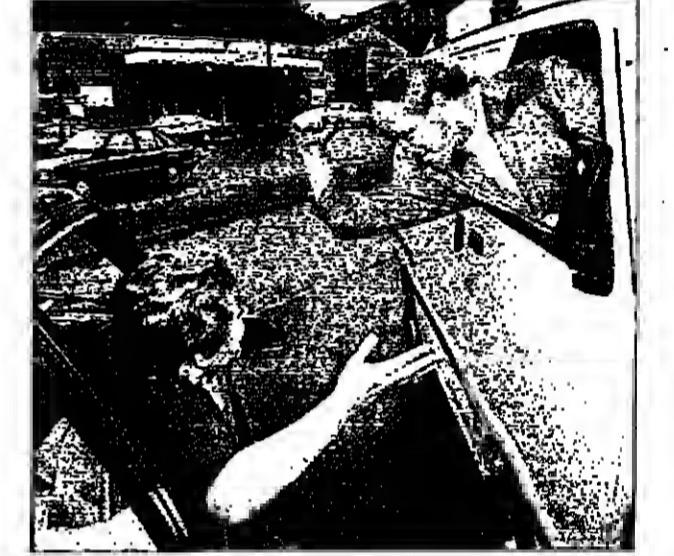
demonstrating a tear-inducing

groin kick. "It's no good all

those ideas about taking a

pepperpot with you or a bottle

of hairspray. How are you



If in doubt, lock your doors, shut your windows – and never discuss David Batty

something we can develop across the country."

We were all incredibly well-behaved to start off with. Few admitted to feelings of rage on the roads – except one of the males. To derisive cries of "Yeah, right Kev" one man said that while he was "always a courteous driver" he frequently got irritated when people carved him up.

Judith Ackland Snow, pretty in peach, tried to get the women to come clean. "Now ladies, let's get down to it, what causes road rage?" Silence. "That's right, stress. We've all been stressed out at the office or had a row and then we get stuck in traffic. Now who's been stressed like that?" A few guilty people put their hands up. "Gentlemen you know nine times out of 10 it's you."

Do not believe her. The ladies may have been reluctant to admit it, but they were fed up of being harassed on the roads and were eager to learn. "I've been pushed off the road," said Bernadette Walker. "It's really aggressive, all those flashing lights and stuff. It's usually men."

"No women can just as bad," said her friend, Mary Coosey. "They can be in a real hurry even if they're just behind you in a small car."

Bernadette wasn't going to let any attacker walk all over her either. "You know you're

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he driver

One simple question from her GP might have saved Lorna from years of violent abuse from her husband. By Marina Cantacuzino

And how are we feeling today?



Lorna Blackburn was abused by her husband for four years and welcomes the new guidelines allowing doctors to ask about domestic violence Nicola Kurtz

Three years ago Jennifer Allan was living in a relationship so violent that she feared buying bleach in case her boyfriend flicked it in her eyes. The violence had escalated throughout their five-year relationship but it wasn't until Jennifer went to see her GP for a routine health visit that she broke down and revealed the full extent of the abuse. "The consultation had come to an end and I was just walking out through the door when my doctor asked me how I was. I don't know what it was but it was something about the way he asked me that made me suddenly crumple and tell him what had happened. It was the first time I'd spoken to anyone and I remember afterwards feeling so much lighter inside because at last I'd been able to off-load on to someone else."

Jennifer's GP referred her to a crisis line and six months later with the help and support of a local refuge she was able to leave her boyfriend and begin a new independent life. Such intervention from a doctor is unusual given that most GPs feel reluctant to "interfere" in problems deemed to be the domain and expertise of either the police or agencies specifically set up to deal with issues of domestic violence.

All this is set to change, however, with new guidelines issued this week by the British Medical Association urging family doctors to routinely question their female patients to discover if they are victims of domestic violence. The BMA's report, *Domestic Violence: a Healthcare Issue*, stresses that doctors and other healthcare professionals have a responsibility in helping women to disclose that violence is taking place and ensuring that advice and support is available.

The majority of women who are victims of domestic abuse not only feel in some way responsible for what is happening but feel so humiliated and so powerless to change the situation that they see little point in confiding in their doctor. Of those 36 per cent of women who do seek help, however, their GP is the most likely first source of help.

Research in the United States has shown that women would welcome this change and some have complained that GPs have not probed far enough. But would all women be willing to be questioned and how would they feel if a bruised arm from a minor accident immediately put their partner under suspicion?

Dr Paddy Glackin, a GP in North London, welcomes the idea of GPs taking a more proactive role and believes that all women should be routinely questioned, "otherwise you're buying into the idea that it

only happens to a certain sort of person which is exactly the attitude we're trying to get away from". His experience as a GP in a busy inner-city practice has shown him that domestic violence is not only the province of the socially deprived but also alive and kicking in middle-class households.

Although Dr Glackin has treated women victims of domestic violence he has not always felt confident enough to probe in the way that he now feels he has permission to. "In the past it was perceived that we shouldn't be involved and there was a fear of breaking confidentiality or jeopardising the doctor-patient relationship but that attitude shouldn't hold us back and GPs must now seriously address this matter."

With a problem clearly so deep

rooted in British society, the BMA is trying to bring to GPs' notice the fact that domestic violence is far more prevalent than most people realise. The statistics are shocking. Twenty-five per cent of all women experience violence within their relationships, with those most at risk being in the 16 to 29 age group. One half of all female homicides are women killed by partners or former partners.

Although these statistics have been known for a long time, this is the first occasion that the BMA has taken it upon itself to push the point home and give GPs the task of providing the first port of call for women and children who are the victims of domestic violence. At last there is recognition, too, that between 75 and 90 per cent of domestic violence

incidents within the family are witnessed by children, a factor which is known to cause them long-term psychological damage.

Dr Anne Rodway, a GP in Sevenoaks, Kent, welcomes any attempt to make doctors more aware of this tip-of-the-iceberg scenario, just as in recent years they have been made more aware of problems with the mentally ill and victims of child abuse. However, she is not in favour of all women being routinely questioned. "The relationship between the doctor and patient should be an open door one," she says. "While women need to know that their doctor is their first port of call, if a GP is too probing it might jeopardise that relationship. GPs need to be sensitive to warnings which trigger alarm bells and then dig deeper."

Lorna Blackburn, 29, who has been living with her two children in a refuge for the past six months, believes her ordeal would have come to an end far quicker had her doctor picked up on some of the most telling signs of domestic violence. "When I was pregnant I saw my GP frequently and on several occasions I had a black eye but no one ever asked me anything about it either in the surgery or the hospital," she says.

For four years she was married to a nightclub owner who, for the first year or two, resorted to the odd slap about the face but later started to systematically beat her up, throwing her down the stairs and leaving her body covered in bruises the size of foot prints. Lorna welcomes the BMA guidelines, believing it is vital

for doctors to ask all women if they are the victims of domestic violence irrespective of whether a doctor suspects something is amiss or not. "It makes no difference what sort of person you are," she insists. "You can't tell who's likely to be in that situation and who's not."

Lorna also knows, to her cost, how difficult it is talking to family or friends about relationships of such complexity and brutality. "At first I was embarrassed and at the same time convinced he would eventually change back to the man I'd married. But then it became downright degrading because I knew I was living with an animal." Even when Lorna told her family that she had been in a violent relationship they never once asked her what kind of violence she had endured. For this

reason she's convinced a GP could be a vital link in unlocking the chain of silence. "It's very, very hard just to come out with it but if you're approached then it's easier."

Her only concern is that increasingly GPs don't have time for their patients and it's no longer a family doctor one signs up with but a local practice. "I think it shouldn't matter seeing a new doctor every time because sometimes it's easier talking to someone who doesn't know you. But if a doctor sees you regularly they're much more likely to spot the warning signs."

With a seven-minute cut-off time for each surgery appointment, GPs are already struggling to cope with an over-full patient list and it's doubtful whether all will welcome an initiative which requires time if it is to be dealt with appropriately and sensitively. According to Dr Glackin, however, this shouldn't be an issue. "If you haven't got the time, then it's important to encourage the person to come back and if necessary book a double appointment," he says.

Up until now GPs have felt inadequately trained to pursue the issue effectively and one of the report's recommendations is that education and training should become part of the undergraduate curriculum. Dr Val Lamont, a chartered counselling psychologist who has seen women's self-confidence eroded to the point of being unable to leave abusive relationships, believes that it would require little more than basic counselling skills to provide GPs with adequate training. She believes that the latest BMA guidelines are an inspired initiative and may at last reach people before the downward cycle has taken hold.

"As women are abused their confidence plummets, their sense of reality in terms of who's to blame gets screwed and they tend to assume they're to blame for triggering the violence and so lose all sense of control over their environment," says Dr Lamont. "They desperately need someone to tell them to get out before their self esteem is so eroded that they get stuck."

Though Jennifer Allan was trapped in an abusive relationship for many years, it was not until repeated physical attacks replaced sporadic verbal abuse that she realised she was a victim of domestic violence. "Whereas I used to make excuses for my boyfriend when he insulted me, when he started being physically violent that was much harder to deal with and I went completely under," she says. "I felt so ashamed and I'd sit indoors for days on end nursing my wounds. I certainly didn't dare tell my friends or my parents and if my GP hadn't asked how I was on that day back in 1995 I don't know where I'd be today."

Exposed schoolmaster Robert Fraser gives Glenda Cooper the Full Monty

Religious teacher by day, horned devil by night



Nick" does his bumpy workman Bournemouth Evening News

THE IMPORTANCE of baring one's soul must form part of any religious education syllabus. However, it is likely that a school did not expect her RE teacher to take it a step further - baring his body as well.

"It was a natural outlet for my energy," says Robert Fraser, 46, about his second career as Nick the Stripper. It might have been natural for him, but for Oakmead College of Technology his double life teaching horals by day and doing the Full Monty by night was a big surprise.

Mr Fraser ("Actually I only take two or three periods of RE, I mainly teach personal and social education") has just resigned his post at his school in Bournemouth, Dorset, after exposure in the local press.

He first took up stripping 18 months ago when, struggling to pay his mortgage, he spotted an advert for kissograms. He found he liked it.

"I always gave my best," says the married father of three. "I don't like the word exhibitionist but I could do his kind of thing because I have plenty of self-confidence and self-esteem. Some people couldn't do this kind of thing."

This "kind of thing" took many different turns. "It depended who I was doing it for. Sometimes I'd do the smart guy with a bottle of Chambord, or I'd do the casual hit in faded denim, or even the army general, or the doctor. My most popular one was the hunky workman. I'd wear jeans for that and a leather jacket and a hard hat which I bought from a local paint shop. It was just like the Diet Coke ad. I'd wear two

belts as well, one to hold my jeans up and the other was a weightlifting belt which would emphasise the breadth of my shoulders next to the narrowness of my waist."

And then, of course, the Full Monty. "Yes, if they specifically asked for it. It didn't happen that often. My favourites were parties for women in their 40s and 50s because they didn't care."

"I was extremely popular. I did a very good show," he says proudly. "I would do a bit of a dance with the girl, and I had very good movement and rhythm. But the personality was very important as well and that's what I really brought to it. I knew how to put the victim at ease. I was very good. I'd ask the girl whether she wanted me to continue and I'd be whispering in her ear as we had a little bit of a dance and tell her not to be offended. You see, I've got an honours degree. I'm not just a well-toned body - I've got a brain as well."

His dedication to his second job meant that he could bring in an extra £300 a week - unless things went wrong. "There were times when the cassette got stuck and the music wouldn't work, or I'd turn up late or in the wrong uniform. Or there would have been a mistake and the woman involved wouldn't want it."

Was he ever scared? "I've never been found out, to turn up one night and see half the staff or parent-governors in front of him? "I was and I wasn't - there was always that dilemma. I would search the room for any faces that I knew, but in a darkened or crowded pub it's difficult to see

everyone." He might not have seen everyone but they certainly saw him. Rumours had been buzzing round school and, finally, he was questioned. He resigned. "I have nothing to offer but praise for the school," he says.

"Look, it's not illegal or immoral. If I'd been a roofer or a bricklayer I am sure it would have been viewed differently."

"I made an error of judgement and we've all been there. It's called humanity. I've made a mistake and I hope I don't have to live with it for

I am now living with a 'man with a van'

IN THE STICKS

STEVIE MORGAN

now that my temporary moving panic is over, we're going in for a spot of empire building. This is because Doug my partner ("Have you dug those potatoes yet? Can't you get that trench dug by lunchtime?") has ambitions that won't fit in half an acre of garden and a Citroen ZX. He's going to grow things. Not just those Aztec deities that have to be rolled between virgin's thighs at odd times of the day and night, but all manner of scarce and mysterious garden plants with the sort of names that only classics scholars know how to pronounce. For this he needs two things: land to erect his very own poly tunnel (deeply exciting, I too can arrange local arts and social events) and a van (pronounced "vein" à la East End barrow boy).

Now if there's one thing

there's lots of round here, it's land. Fields and fields owned by farmers desperate for someone to take the economic foot off their necks in the shake down from BSE. All over the place farms are up for sale. Land you would have thought would be easy to come by. And it is if you want an area big enough for a Rolling Stones' tax dodge. But a piece the size of a couple of tennis courts? Tricky.

Which is how we came to

spend a precious Saturday

morning off, without kids,

tromping the field next door

with our neighbour Bob, trying to negotiate a price on a nice little patch near our house. We want to buy and he wants to sell, but somehow it wasn't that simple. For a start, Bob is used to holding conversations over mooing herds, so we had to stand six feet away from him so

as not to risk a burst cardiom or two. Subtle negotiation at a shout is beyond me. Shouting is what you do in emergencies or rows. Then there was his obsession with water and moles. We heard about every flood, drought and water bill for the last 15 years, and the best way to take a 12-bore to a mole hill to ensure success. Finally, I pushed us on to discussing area and cash. Farmers have a rather longer perspective than most people, which was unfortunate in this case as we couldn't get him off the subject of what he might sell the land for in 10 years, rather than what was a sensible price for it now.

In Bob's dream futures market for fields, low grade pasture 800 feet up fetches about the same price as a block of downtown Manhattan. As we'd never get planning permission for Bloomingdale's up here, it seems like a bit of a draft investment.

We all ended up by stomping away in our wellies to consider our respective positions. Us: how to fit two polytunnels onto the lawn. Bob: how to get planning permission for five hundred Beezer homes, 10 miles from the nearest B road.

Luckily, "vein" acquisition has been more successful. After buying enough Auto Traders, Ad Marts, and Free Ads to reconstruct the Berlin wall, Doug found one and we went to fetch it on our night off. But as the owner got lost en route to the rendezvous point, we spent

all evening waiting in the motorway services, with no dinner but the last sandwiches on the shelf - sausage and egg on white bread ("heart disease in a bun") and nothing to do but read glossies. Doug did the "Are You A Latin Lover?" quiz in Cosmo, and I chose colour schemes from *Homes and Gardens*. At last it arrived and it was truly a "vein", big and square, and of course, white. Just the sort of thing that fills your rear-view mirror lights flashing aggressively with a tattooed driver on 40 Capstan unlit a day.

Climbing into the cab reminded me of hitching in the states, and I half expected some American trucker to haul me up from the driver's seat. Doug was very excited, chanting: "I've got a vein, I've got a vein" like Arthur Daley all the way home. "I'm going to get it dirty and write 'clean me' on the side," he said gleefully.

We got to the pub, a row of little faces quizzically crumpled against the windows as the big flashy "vein" drove into the car park. Nobody they knew - or so they thought. If we'd clambered down off a camel, like the aunt in *Towers Of Trebizon*, it would have had rather less effect. People like us are not supposed to drive "veins".

But we're not about to overturn the social order. Just as the Mirandas and Marmadukes of this world restore their Georgian cottages with period features, we will furnish the "vein" with the correct accessories: a copy of the Sun on the dash, a glowing plastic skeleton and a terrier sitting in the passenger seat.

Schools have moved on from the days of the brief ('satisfactory') and the brutal ('dullard'). But today's teachers have to employ a range of euphemisms as they break the bad news to parents and leave their pupils some hope for the future By Diana Appleyard

Reports: fairly good – could do better

In a few weeks' time, all around the country, a thick brown envelope will either plop through the letterbox or be handed over hesitantly by a small, shaking hand. The school report is upon us again.

This either spells disaster, with carefully chosen phrases such as "lacks concentration" and "easily influenced" that will cast a long, gloomy shadow over the beginning of the summer holidays – or we will feel immensely pleased and proud that our child appears to "excel in all subjects" and is a "born leader". But how much store should we put on these annual records of our child's academic and sporting endeavours?

A great deal, according to Ted Wragg, professor of education at Essex University and a well-known broadcaster and writer on the subject. "An enormous amount of time and effort goes into writing reports now. The days of the Sixties when it was perfectly acceptable to write 'satisfactory' or 'very good' next to a subject have long gone. Now teachers have to include detailed information about very complex syllabuses, Standard Assessment Test scores, teacher assessments and attendance records, as well as personal and social development."

Writing reports has become extremely time-consuming for teachers. Since the introduction of the prescriptive national curriculum in the late Eighties and early Nineties, they have been expected to be "diagnostic" in content. "This can mean that a primary teacher will end up writing around 300 words for each child," says Prof Wragg. "Multiply that by the 35 or so children in his or her class, and they end up writing a novella."

The idea of "parental choice" introduced by the last Tory government also means that parents in

general expect far more in the way of information about test results and performance from schools. They expect to be given the nitty-gritty and refuse to be fobbed off by platitudinous terms such as "satisfactory" or "fairly good on the whole".

Teachers today have to tread a fine line between alerting the parent that something may be going wrong and offending them completely. Prof Wragg agrees, saying this can be very tricky for many teachers. "To criticise a child, you criticise a gene. Some parents tend to react as if their entire dynasty has been threatened."

Gill Crampton-Smith teaches at a preparatory school in Buckinghamshire. She says: "I'm currently writing out my reports, and I'm trying desperately to think of a word that describes one particular child. She is potentially very good at her work, but she actually spends far too much time worrying about what everybody else in the class is doing, with the result that she hardly does anything at all. The word I am really thinking is 'interfering'. But could I put that on a report to be read by a parent in the cold light of day? I don't think so."

Crampton-Smith remembers a similar situation at a previous school. "We sat down to go through the reports with the rest of the staff. One teacher was having real trouble with one particular child. All she had written on the report for English was: 'I have tried to call Jamie to write – and failed.' It took us some time to persuade her that this was unlikely to be acceptable to his parents."

She admits that school reports are inevitably full of euphemisms to avoid this kind of offence (see panel). "If I write 'this child lacks concentration', what I really mean is that this child has spent the entire term counting the tiles on the roof he can



Judy Robinson has firm views about her children's reports: 'I want to be told the truth before it's too late. I want to know what we can do now'

John Lawrence

see out of the window. If I write 'participating well in class discussions', it generally means they talk too much. He seems to have found his feet' means he's over-confident and should stop being so smug. 'Must have confidence in his own ability' means 'please do something – anything at all would be nice'. You can see how we have to tiptoe round the issue.'

I do not remember the teachers at my secondary school having such delicate sensibilities. One teacher wrote the simple, bleak sentence

'Diana is a liability to all around her', which I felt was rather harsh, if true. I can also remember one report that contained the phrase 'Fairly good on the whole' four times. I had obviously driven the entire staff

so far up the wall that they could not even bear to think of anything to say about my academic performance. Opening reports in our house was a very big deal. My father would call us into the formal living room, where he would gently place his half-moon glasses on the end of his nose, stare at me long and hard and say: "Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear." Then he would attempt to give me the most appalling telling-off – although I knew he was secretly extremely amused, and I would see his shoulders shaking as he read the next atrocious.

But should you be angry if your child's report is a real stink? Gill Crampton-Smith says not. "Not many children deliberately set out not to do any work at all. Sometimes

you just haven't found the key, and to write 'this child is a complete loser' would hardly send them back the next term full of energy and enthusiasm. What we have to do through reports is give both children and parents hope. You have to make sure you say something positive about them – even if it's only that they managed to build a nice pyramid. You aim to be as positive as possible, whilst giving parents the clues that improvements are needed."

Judi Robinson from Thame, has three children – 12-year-old Harry, seven-year-old Joseph and six-year-old Grace. She says: "I take a huge amount of notice of reports. We always read them on our own – I'm horrified when I see children reading reports before giving them to

their parents – and then call the children in one by one. We go through each subject very carefully, and we ask them for their comments too."

"I do get cross if they aren't very good. Perhaps I shouldn't, but I do. I am especially cross if I think they are not pulling their weight when they can actually do it. Harry is perfectly able, but he can be lazy. We can have a real head-banger session with him. If a report is especially bad then often we'll leave it until the end of the holidays. But as a parent, I want to be told 'he's trying really hard', then he fails his GCSEs. It's too late then – I want to know what we can do about it now." But she says she does edit out the bad bits if she feels the child would be demoralised.

Gill Crampton-Smith agrees with this. "A child won't do well if they think they aren't doing very well. Their parents are the people who have the greatest influence over them. So if their parents annihilate them over their school report, then the likelihood is they will return next term with very low self-esteem."

The message is that we should look for the positive elements, and try to find a way forward from the negative comments. And as Prof Wragg reminds us, the world is full of successful people whose reports said they would never amount to anything. "Mr Dullard" was a comment found on one particular man's school report. His name? Albert Einstein."

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
NO 005125 of 1998
JULY 1998
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE
COMPANIES ACT 1985 AND 1993
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 17 June 1998 the Plaintiff to Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the United Kingdom in the exercise of the powers of the Act of Parliament for the reduction of the share premium account of the above-named Company, by resolution passed on the 17th day of June 1998, reduced the share premium account by the sum of £3,10,013.40 standing in the credit of the capital reserve account of the Company.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Plaintiff is entitled to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, EC4 on Wednesday the 17th day of July 1998.

ANY Creditors or Shareholders of the said Company are entitled to appear before the Court for the confirmation of the reduction of share premium account and cancellation of shares. Creditors and shareholders should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Notice will be available for inspection during the hours between the hours of 9am and 4pm, at the offices of the Plaintiff, 100 Finsbury Square, London, EC2M 7AJ.

DATED the 10th day of July 1998

ADOLESHAN BOOTH & CO
100 Finsbury Square, London, EC2M 7AJ
(Ref: R/1998/1)

Subscribed for the Company

DAVID DRYER SPORTS TOURS LIMITED - IN LIQUIDATION

THE WALL CORPORATE EVENTS LIMITED INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE EVENTS LTD LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at The Executive Hotel Bath Road, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 7LZ on 2nd August 1998 at 10.30am.

275 Lancaster Gate, London W2 1HJ on 14th July 1998 at 10.30am for the purpose of receiving the accounts, names and addresses of the creditors and of determining whether a winding-up order should be made on the same day.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at the offices of Ian Francis Associates, Conduit Street, London W1C 1EP on 1st August 1998 at 10.30am for the purpose of receiving the accounts, names and addresses of the creditors and of determining whether a winding-up order should be made on the same day.

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NOTICE

I have to employ a
y Diana Appleby

It's hard to be in
Commons and
have a home life.
It's even harder
for the families,
as MP's daughter
Sophie Radice
knows. But all
that may change

Being a child of a Member of Parliament in the Seventies and Eighties meant getting used to extraordinary working hours. Rather like a showbiz parent (only Dad had already done a full day's work) my father would often have to get up from the supper table to rush back to the House of Commons to vote or for a late-night sitting, taking his sleeping bag so that he could get try and grab some rest on the floor of his office. Sometimes he would miss his children so much that he would wake us up when he came back in the small hours and get grumpy, sleep-muffled replies to his routine questions of "What are you up to?" and "Tell us a bit more then"? Although my dynamic stepmother published pamphlets suggesting parliamentary reform, we children didn't question his rock-star timetable but merely resented it.

Add on to this his weekends away at the constituency, and really the only good thing about having a Member of Parliament as a parent was the long summer recess, seeing faces from *Spitting Image* such as Mrs Thatcher and the Rev Ian Paisley in real life, and the lovely strawberry teas on the terrace - which my father still treats my children to in June and July.

Things have got a little better for MPs' families since the Jopling reforms of Parliamentary working hours were introduced during the last Parliament. In the final years of the Major government, MPs usually left the House at 10.30 instead of after midnight, made up in part by an extra sitting on Wednesday mornings. This was the start of a move towards changing the ridiculous, archaic hours MPs are expected to work, which not only keeps them from their families but means that they are perpetually tired (there are always a handful of MPs asleep on the benches) - not exactly the ideal state for those supposed to be running the country.

Now Anne Taylor, leader of the House of Commons, wants to take things further and, as chair of the modernisation committee, has published a proposal to reform the Parliamentary calendar. The main three suggestions for change are: to finish the main Parliamentary business on Thursday by 7pm instead of 10 to enable Fridays to be a "constituency day"; to allow constituency weeks to coincide with school half-terms in February and October; and to provide the option for committees to sit



Ruth Kelly, Labour MP for Bolton West, and baby Emmon at the Houses of Parliament. "It is extremely difficult for those with young families to cope with late votes," she says. John Laurence

The parliament of all mothers

in the September weeks when the chamber is not sitting.

Both Mike Hall and Clive Soley of the modernisation committee are keen to emphasise that the proposal's main thrust is to make Parliament more effective and efficient rather than more "family friendly". Was I wrong or did I detect the feeling that talking about MPs and family life was considered a rather woolly and, er, feminine issue, and that if changes mean spending more time with the family then that was just a happy side effect of the new proposals?

As Mr Hall said: "We have got to try and update Parliamentary arrangements which used to allow MPs a long morning to pursue other interests". The old style Tory MP would work each morning and then come after lunch and relax in the clubby atmosphere of the Commons. There is absolutely no point in holding on to that tradition now because for most of us (certainly in the Labour party) being an MP is a full-time career. Personally I would

welcome ending sittings on a Thursday because this would allow me to travel home and spend all day on Friday clear for constituency work. Dr Phyllis Starkey MP says: "That rather tired old conundrum of 'Are you representing your constituency in Westminster or representing Westminster in your constituency?' does always come up. The answer is, of course, both. These days MPs have an enormous workload from their constituency and Parliamentary duties and we have to try to take into account the MPs whose homes are in easy reach of London and those who could not get home, however early the House might rise in the evening."

I ask how on earth an MP could possibly have a satisfactory family life, even with the suggested possibility of ending each Parliamentary day at nine in the evening instead of 10 or the possibility of getting home at a decent time on Friday? Dr Starkey replies that she is thankful her children have grown up. She reminds me that it is not just the chil-

dren who suffer. "I have been married for 28 years and although we have always been busy people, before I became an MP I had never spent a night away from my husband. Now I have to spend at least three nights in London and we are both finding it really, really difficult."

One can only imagine the complications of MP Ruth Kelly's life. One of the '97 newcomers, she has a small child and another due any day. She welcomes the new proposals and is enthusiastic about being able to roll votes together by day so she would not have to vote in the late evening. "My colleagues and I would better be able to serve our constituents if we had sensible timetables that related to conventional working hours. It is extremely difficult for those with young families or other caring responsibilities to cope with the lifestyle of late votes." She believes that, if Parliament is to be truly representative, it should not have hours that are prohibitive of any normal family life.

In order for these proposals to come into practice, Ms Taylor must win support from the Commons. One can imagine that the Tories view her proposals as another suspicious New Labour plot to keep them out of any kind of effective opposition, particularly if they do have "business" interests to see to in the morning. Older Labour MPs whose

There will probably be enough young "New Labour" MPs with children to make sure that these reforms do come about and that this will just be the start of reorganising the working hours of Parliament. Mr Soley suggests having a second committee chamber which would leave vote-worthy issues to the main chamber. This means time spent in the House will be more predictable, and MPs will be able to plan more.

Whatever happens, one thing is for sure. The greatest asset that an MP who wants to have a family as well as a successful career (and you can safely say that the lofiness of a politician's position directly reflects the extent of his/her neglect of his family), will always be the unusually supportive husband/wife, prepared to take on the lion's share of parental, organisational and domestic duties for the ambitious and idealistic vision of their ever-so-Honourable spouse.

The writer is the daughter of Giles Radice, MP for Durham North.

Parliament should
not have hours that
are prohibitive to
family life

homes are far away and who are used to spending a fair amount of time in the Members' bar of an evening might well be less than enthusiastic about early morning work too. There is also an unspoken macho attitude amongst some MPs that those who can't handle the extremely tough workload and hours shouldn't be MPs at all.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

THIS WEEK: A BROTHER AND SISTER TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED WHEN ONE OF THEM WON THE LOTTERY

'I drove to Bunny's and gave him a cheque'

In March 1996, Penny Haigh, 49, won £1.3 million in a Lottery family syndicate. She retired two months later and now lives on a seven-acre estate in Lincolnshire with her husband, Penny's brother Paul Joyce, 52, a car valet, lives in a council house in Wiltshire. They describe their relationship as "very close".

Paul Joyce: Even though we live 200 miles apart, Penny and I have become quite a bit closer since she won the Lottery. I see more of her and speak to her on the phone a lot, even though half the time we've got nothing much to say. She means that I've never got any news, but we still manage to chat for ages.

On the Monday after it happened, someone at work told me he'd won £10 on the Lottery. I casually said: "Well, my sister won a million," and everyone suddenly went silent. It was a lovely feeling.

I really enjoy going round telling people about Penny. Whenever the Lottery comes up, I love showing that in. I get big rise out of them when I tell them that she also travels round in a Roller. I like winding people up like that and it makes me feel really great to know that people are jealous of me because my sister won the

Lottery. They assume I'm rich as well and I don't say anything to contradict them. It's a game for me and it makes me feel like a bit of a celebrity.

She actually rang me on the night she won to ask me whether you had to have six or seven numbers to win. I thought she was going to ring me back after that and tell me how much she'd won, but unbelievably she forgot, so I was waiting on tenterhooks all night and didn't get a wink of sleep.

I would have been mad if I hadn't started hoping I'd benefit from it, too. After all, she is my sister and brothers and sisters look after each other, don't they? I knew she'd be all right about helping me out and she has been. She's given me a couple of bob here and there and helped me buy a bigger car.

I don't ask her for money, but she always offers and I haven't refused her yet. I don't have a problem with it and feel more secure now I know she's there if I ever need financial help.

We've always helped each other out and this is no different. We had a very hard life when we were children because there were six of us and our father never had two pennies to rub together, so we know all about sharing. I've always been a shoulder for her to cry on. The only time we argue is when I nag her to give up the



Paul Joyce with his Lottery-winning sister Penny Haigh, at her home with her new Rolls Royce

smoking. I do the Lottery every week - of course I do. It's my turn next. It's not if I'm going to win, it's when I'm going to win. That's what Penny used to say before she won, and look what happened to her.

My wife and I don't go mad - we buy two or three tickets a week and we're both in syndicates. The funny thing is, I had three numbers up myself and won £10 the night Penny won. If I'd been living nearer her, I suppose I would have been in her syndicate. Still,

there's always next time.

Penny Haigh:

I don't think Bunny and I are any closer since I won the Lottery. I think we've stayed the same as we were before. I still turn up at his house on Saturday afternoons without letting him know I'm coming and we phone each other on Sundays just like we always have.

I certainly haven't changed one bit. I don't go on mad spending trips like other Lottery winners. In fact, I still buy all my clothes in charity shops just like I did before I won.

The only thing I did want to do was go on the Orient Express with my husband, because we couldn't afford a honeymoon when we got married and I've never been abroad. But my

husband won't go. I know Bunny and his wife would like a holiday, but I wouldn't want to go without my husband.

After I won, I sat down and worked out who I was going to give money to, and how much. Then I drove to Bunny's house and just gave him a cheque. I didn't feel odd or guilty about it at all. I was glad he was willing to take it, because some people would be too embarrassed.

I knew he'd be pleased for me. There was no question of him being jealous because he's not that kind of person. But he'd have been mental not to think there'd be something in it for him and that doesn't bother me at all.

We got used to sharing early on in our family. I remember one Christmas my younger brother and I got a bike between us. So I know that if it had been Bunny who won the Lottery, he'd have done the same for me.

My husband and I have always been workaholics. We've got to be doing something or we get bored. Now we've renovated our house, it's time to move on. Ideally, I'd like to run a hotel and employ Bunny and his wife Carol as barman and waitress. I don't know if the idea appeals to them, but they know the offer's always open.

Interview by Rebecca Cripps

Little rich art groupie? Peggy Guggenheim was more than that, as a New York exhibition shows. By Jonathan Jones

The surreal collector from heaven

Full fathom five thy father lies/
Of his bones are coral made/
Those are pearls that were his eyes/
Nothing of him that doth fade/
But doth suffice/To something rich and strange."

Peggy Guggenheim was fourteen when her father, Benjamin Guggenheim, the black sheep of the family, drowned on the *Titanic's* maiden voyage in 1912. His body was never recovered. The Guggenheims were rich beyond even American fantasy - on the eve of the First World War they were said to own 80 per cent of the world's silver, copper and lead deposits - but their wealth couldn't bring back the dead. It could, however, buy art, and Peggy Guggenheim spent her life salvaging art and artists from the wreck of the 20th century.

Now the memory of Peggy herself is in danger of being forgotten: this year is the centenary of her birth and an exhibition, "Peggy Guggenheim: A Centennial Celebration", has opened in New York before moving to the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice.

But the myth is strangely disconnected from her real story and significance. When she retired to Venice in the late Forties, setting up her collection in a palazzo on the Grand Canal and writing her memoirs, she relished the role of art world celebrity, a chic eccentric. The Guggenheim foundation is happy to play up to that image. Its shop sells Peggy Guggenheim jewelled horn-rimmed sunglasses, Peggy Guggenheim handbags, postcards of an elderly Peggy Guggenheim with her dogs looking like a slightly less grand gogol Barbara Cartland. Yet her choice of Venice as a home had more to do with imagination and aesthetics than with high society.

In 1942, she scoured the United States for a house to share with her husband, the Surrealist painter Max Ernst. "The place I came nearest to buying," she said, "was a fifty-room unfinished castle built on a high hill at Malibu in Southern California. In its unfinished state it looked like a Randolph Hearst dream." This might have been a prophecy of where she ended up. The Palazzo Venier dei Leoni is a fantastic stump of a palace rising out of the Grand Canal.

It looks like a classical temple among all the gothic piles, white marble columns and massive masonry suddenly terminating above the first floor. If the eighteenth century builders had finished what they started, this would be one of the grandest dwellings in the city. Unfinished and uninhabited until this century, it made a perfect home for the woman (IG Ballard has called "the bride of the Surrealists".

Venice is the capital city of the unconscious. The green water that seeps round every corner, whose depths no one can see, makes every palazzo and bridge seem the tip of an iceberg: the city's inner life takes place in the stagnant depths. No wonder the Futurists swore to modernise it by filling in the canals with concrete. So it is, perhaps, a surprising place to find one of the world's great modern art collections. Modernism was supposed to be rational, severe and minimal: a pure art freed from the dirt of the body. Certainly, this was the definition of abstraction promoted by Guggenheim's uncle, Solomon R Guggenheim, who, with his mistress Hilla Rebay - Nazi sympathiser - founded the Museum of Non-Objective Art in New York in 1937. Today's Solomon R Guggenheim Foundation, which runs two museums in New York as well as the Peggy Guggenheim Collection and the new Frank Gehry-designed Guggenheim in Bilbao, is descended from this strange enterprise.

Peggy sullied the purity with her art gallery, Art of This Century, a calculated attack on uncle Solomon's museum.

Max Ernst's Attirement of the Bride which features in the exhibition

seum. She had met the Surrealist in Europe in the Thirties, and after years in Paris as a bohemian émigré, bringing up her daughter Pegeen (who was to become a primitive painter and kill herself). Peggy became an art dealer and collector on the advice of her lover, Samuel Beckett. Her friend, Marcel Duchamp, taught her about art, she then had an affair with Yves Tanguy, and at the beginning of the Second World War she fell in love with Max Ernst.

In wartime America, the Surrealists became the equivalent of pop stars. Salvador Dalí had made himself a household name, devising an erotic underwater cavern for the 1939 New York World's Fair; and virtually the entire Surrealist movement migrated from occupied Paris to New York. They had no choice. Their

work had featured in the Nazi Degenerate Art exhibition in 1937 and Ernst, a German citizen and Nazi hate-object, had narrowly escaped death in a concentration camp. Peggy got Max out of Europe in 1941 and married him after Pearl Harbour so he would not be treated as an enemy alien. They became the king and queen of the Surrealist court in exile.

The pair lived a parody of a bourgeois life that sounds like one of Ernst's collages of nineteenth century engravings. "He bought an old Victorian chair with a ten-foot back", Peggy recalled. "It was a stage piece and he would not let anyone else sit in it. He looked very regal." Ernst's contribution to Surrealist art - currently documented in an exhibition at the Pompidou Centre in Paris - was to find analogues of dreaming not just in his images but in the texture of painting; he devised "grattage", a way of scraping paint off a prepared canvas with objects beneath it to allow arbitrary shapes to appear; and he called it Decalcomania, a method of pressing diluted paint onto the canvas with a pane of glass to create soft, furry surfaces.

Guggenheim's promotion of surrealism at Art of This Century caught the imagination of young American practitioners. It consisted of a long cave with goo on the walls and biomorphic furniture, with flashing lights and the sound of an express train roaring past. "I was awestruck by Art of This Century," remembered the New York assemblage artist, Joseph Cornell. His boxes, containing enigmatic arrangements of mirror shards, dead leaves, magazine pictures and other found material were shown at the gallery. Surrealism created a new atmosphere of experiment in New York and Peggy Guggenheim enthusiastically supported the artists she saw taking up the struggle to explore the unconscious. The star among them, as she recognised when he sent a painting to an open submission show at her

gallerist, was Jackson Pollock.

Alchemy (1947) dominates the Jackson Pollock room in Guggenheim's palazzo. The long canvas is protected by glass and the reflections of Venice from outside that dance over the painting enhance its mystery. It was one of the first paintings Pollock made by putting the canvas on the ground and pouring paint from a can, a method inspired directly by the Surrealists. Ernst conducted well-publicised experiments in New York in the Forties in which he swung a can of paint with a hole in it over a canvas. Pouring paint was a kind of automatic writing, a way of subverting the conscious mind.

Pollock would never have developed his new techniques if Guggenheim had not given him her patronage. A deeply troubled man,



Peggy Guggenheim photographed in her New York apartment on East 61st Street by André Kertész in 1945

who needed a lot of nurturing, he was put on a salary by Guggenheim, who also gave him successive solo shows at Art of This Century and commissioned him to paint a mural for her house. "I welcomed a new protégé," she said. "Pollock was difficult - he drank too much and became so unpleasant, one might say devilish, on these occasions." Once, having tried and failed to instal his vast mural in her house, he drank every bottle he could find in her kitchen, took off all his clothes, walked into a room where a polite party was going on and urinated in the fireplace.

No one would do that at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection today, where everything is delightfully civilised, from the terrace cafe overlooking the garden to the tasteful museum shop. The rooms where Peggy slept and ate among her paintings have been stripped of furniture and made into a conventional white-walled art museum, but there are still echoes of her life there: the silver bedhead she commissioned from Alexander Calder hangs as an exhibit.

Guggenheim was much more than the bride of the Surrealists. She was a Surrealist herself in her understanding of art as an emanation of the psyche, and installing her collection in a Venetian palazzo was to interpret modern art through Surrealist eyes. Outside in the sculpture garden, she is commemorated by a simple plaque among Max Ernst's totemic figures.

In a sense, the father who died on the Titanic is somewhere down there in the Grand Canal by the ou-

seum. In 1947, in the same series that includes *Alchemy*, Jackson Pollock created an oceanic whirlpool of a painting in which he floated all kinds of flotsam and jetsam: cigarette butts, nails, a key. When the painting was dry it was sent to Peggy Guggenheim and she later presented it to the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Pollock or one of his associates, quoting Shakespeare's image of a drowned pearl surrealistically transformed called it *Full Fathom Five*.

Peggy Guggenheim: A Centennial Celebration, Guggenheim Museum, New York, 12 June - 2 September, and Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, from 29 September. Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, open 11am-6pm daily, closed Tuesdays (telephone: 0039 41 5206288).

'Max Ernst', Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, until 27 July

The fire that went out

POP

EARTH, WIND AND FIRE
ROYAL ALBERT HALL
LONDON SW7

AS ONE of the most successful funk-pop crossover bands of all time, the original Earth, Wind and Fire could always be counted on to provide something of a spectacle in the Seventies.

Since their leader and mentor Maurice White reacted to the group in the mid-Eighties, the outfit has struggled to recapture former glories. Unfortunately, with Maurice's health preventing him from joining the current tour, his bassist brother Verdine and vocalist Philip Bailey are left looking after the franchise.

The intro, complete with two girls in slinky, skimpy white outfits and several members holding torches in the dark, was cringe-inducing. Compared to its pyramid-building and drum-kit revolving antics of yore, Earth Wind and Fire is now on a budget.

Still, the band has not scrimped on the numbers: 12 musicians and vocalists launched into an undistinguished selection from their recent albums. Five songs in, the bouncy "Shining Star" lifted things up a bit. By the infectious "September", the thirtysomething Albert Hall crowd was on its feet and ready for a boogie.

What the crowd got instead were two go-go dancers in red giving James Brown's dancers of *Ike and Tina Turner's* Ikettes a run for their money. The God-fearing gospel singer Bailey didn't know where to look, and neither did L.

A blast of "In the Stone" quickly redeemed proceedings but, 30 minutes in, the percussion excursion - always threatening to happen with four kits on stage - materialised. Bailey, who had jettisoned his green lame suit for stripy trousers, showed off his four-octave range as he went into the quiet smooth of "Love's Holiday" and "After the Love Has Gone".

The gig should have picked up momentum but the all-singing, all-dancing, all-horn-blazing Earth Wind and Fire forgot the gospel of funk and went into another percussion extravaganza. By then, not even a triple salvo of the million-selling "Boogey Wonderland", "Fantasy" and "Let's Groove", could save the night. All a far cry from the excellent *Gratitude* album, which captured the exuberant live performances of the classic Earth Wind and Fire in 1975. What a difference 23 years make.

This review appeared in editions of Saturday's paper.

PIERRE PERRONE

Lemons, fish, but no kids

POETRY

IVOR CUTLER
'MELTDOWN'
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Eccentric Cutler may be: loveable is another matter.

He looked harmless enough, ambling on stage in front of the capacity audience, swaddled, from flat cap to plimsoles, in oversized baggy trousers and a multitude of shirts and jackets. He often sounded benign, too, delivering his teensy absurdist vignettes in a frail monotone that wavered on the brink of a chuckle.

If Ivor Cutler were interested in maintaining good public relations, he would have resisted the petulant tone that soured the second half of Thursday evening's 90-minute reading. But the poet, singer and doodler, currently signed to Creation Records, has not maintained his cult status for the last 40 years by courting popular approval. Cutler's refusal to pander to the crowd exceeds even that of John Peel, whose support - from three decades of airplay to this prime spot in the Meltdown Festival - is acknowledged by the Ibrox-born bard to have been crucial to his career.



The benign-looking but irascible Ivor Cutler

a shepherd will have a red face in the morning".

But the menu didn't just consist of laugh-a-minute balderdash. One of the first pieces he read was "Alone": if you are mortal it is hard to feel well-disposed towards the two bricks you are squashed between or even a sense of community. He touched again and again on this sense of solitude - in melancholy-tinged pieces such as "Blind", "The Darkness" and "Empty Road at Little Bedwyn". And when he sat at his pedal-powered harmonium ("These squeaks you hear are supposed to be there. I've tried with WD40, but they add

Poleaxed by baton charge

CLASSICAL

SINFONIA VARSOVIA
DRAPER'S HALL
CITY OF LONDON FESTIVAL

violence; and be shares with Beethoven a unique talent to evoke it. Beethoven's violence is a signal both of form and feeling. And Penderecki's? Well, in the *Sinfonia for Strings* of 1992, a musical language that was pitched pretty high on a level of chordal and rhythmic dissonance certainly kept up the temperature. The work was scored from a String Trio, inspired in turn by his expressionist opera *Ubu Roi*. Yet its turbulence was placed in an almost neo-classical frame. The central idea was a slender chromatic fragment, blown hither and thither by a medley of dry ostinatos.

Austria's Lilia Bayrova-Schulz was soloist in Penderecki's Cello Concerto, which moved from quiet unisons to angry displays that she bravely look in her stride and were as predictable as they were intense. Violence begets violence in Penderecki's music, but it's just sound and fury signifying nothing, effects without cause.

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

SOMETIMES IT'S
EASIER TO TALK
TO SOMEONE
YOU DON'T LIKE.



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JOURNALIST

The fire
that
went
out

POP

Is there too much flannel in our soaps?

As ratings fall and fly-on-the-wall films abound, soaps are in trouble. Michael Collins asks if it's terminal

The BBC launched *EastEnders* in 1985 as the first in a new breed of programme, conceived after extensive market research. The Beeb needed a popular drama series to be in the running with *Coronation Street*. These days, most of the network's output seems to spring from the whims of focus groups. Now Albert Square is about to undergo an overhaul in a bid to re-introduce a scintilla of authenticity. On the other side, the producers of *Coronation Street* and *The Bill* are changing formats and eagerly adding a strand of topicality amidst news of drifting viewers. All signals suggest that the soap as a genre has lost its way and can no longer bring in the ratings. Clive James once wrote of *Dallas* that "he came to mock but he stayed to pray". The reverse may now be the reason for the continued, but ailing, popularity of British soap opera.

The makeover in Albert Square will include the gradual erasure of 10 characters. Whereas the series once produced a cast that had the depth to carry a half-hour two-hander - those Den and Angie battles, for example, or the smouldering dangerous liaison between Sharon and her brother-in-law, Phil Mitchell - the new interns barely warrant a sketch. The most recent addition to Albert Square, the di Marco family, are so stereotypically Italian that they could have arrived at their pizzeria by gondola. And in the dewy-eyed Sara Hills we have the most possessed-looking teenager on screen since Linda Blair took to her bed in *The Exorcist*. The series has discovered how to be funny but forgotten how to be a credible drama.

The shrinking of the cast may restore it to the tight ensemble piece that has succeeded by following the first rule of soap: keep it small and simple. A soap's realism is rooted in its ability to condense plausible events into the lives of recognisable characters. It is characterised by the unique ability to explore the quotidian rather than the extreme.

This is in complete contrast to *Brookside*, a Garden of Earthly Delights worthy of Hieronymus Bosch. Instead of carnivorous eggs and severed torsos, we find bodies under the patio, incest and the occasional five-night run when someone is put on a life support machine.

Soaps have been at their best when one of their fold has indulged in adultery, promiscuity or attempted to escape the ties that bind. With the emergence of the dystopia that is Walford, this approach extended its hand to issues. Race, sexuality, AIDS, drugs, multi-culturalism - all continue to be on the *EastEnders* agenda but they



The depth of casting that saw Den and Angie battle it out in the Queen Vic is missing today

are quickly assimilated into the mix and the series is reduced to introducing Kravitz-like figures to tie-up and rough-up a regular before disappearing in time for the credits.

Recent attempts to rush to a cliff-hanger without bothering about small things such as plot and character are reputedly a reaction to the success of "docu-soaps". Richard Handford, executive producer of *The Bill*, was involved in the inception of the docu-soap with Jimmy's. "Reality is ultimately stranger than fiction," he says. "The docu-soaps have introduced weird and wonderful characters that viewers would not regard as believable if they were in a soap." If the oddness of the ordinary in fly-on-the-wall documentaries has exposed soap as the stuff of farce, the screening of the new docu-soap *Lakesiders*, beginning tonight, will reveal Albert Square as an even greater anachronism. It is set in the Lakeside shopping mall in the hinterland of Thurrock, Essex, a heartland for daytrippers from east and

south London. A community needs a building as a regular haunt in which to casually mull over shared experience. The supermarket, the shopping centre and the DIY store have surpassed the pub as the main port of call for the British.

It was the success of previous docu-soaps *Driving School* and *Animal Hospital* that dented the ratings of *The Bill*. The Friday episode was dropped to make way for the LTV fly-on-the-wall series *Airlite*, which clocked up bigger viewing figures.

Now Sunhill police station has been given a probationary period to prove that it can once again deliver the big audiences. The series is to move to an occasional longer format. "I see *The Bill* in the tradition of the single drama," says Richard Handford. "It spans the gap between soaps and the post-watershed drama. But sometimes the 30-minute format means that suspects are few and the villain holds up his hands quite quickly. That's not to say the longer storylines will bring in shock horror tactics."

The re-scheduling is an attempt to break from a saturation that has also contributed to the drop in ratings. The disenchantment began when the gang of four - *The Bill*, *Emmerdale*, *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street* - started churning out three episodes per week. The fourth weekly visit to Weatherfield has pushed the viewer to high satiation, though *Coronation Street* has managed to cling to the top of the ratings.

Although its creator, Tony Warren, envisaged *Coronation Street* as an exploration of "the driving forces behind life in a working-class street in the north of England", rarely in its 38-year history has it felt the need to be topical. In a break with tradition, there is a transsexual in the supermarket and a television in the pub. The soap's World Cup special, next Sunday, will include scenes recorded earlier that day, in which the regulars react to the match on the screen in the Rover's Return. Brian Parks, the series' executive producer, says: "World Cup fever almost matches Deirdre fever, so we thought we'd mark the occasion by staging something very special."

The exercise reeks of an attempt to bring novelty rather than wit and drama into a genre in which the ideas, like the ratings, appear to be drying up. Such efforts make the script ideas of Marian Clune, the executive producer in Victoria Wood's spoof soap "Acorn Antiques", seem both realistic and prescient. "I'm thinking off the top of my head," she tells the show's writers and director, "but let's go for it - earwax. It's an issue. I've never been done before."

Similar is true of current efforts to re-invent the soap elsewhere. BBC2 offers the late-night *Lost in France*, with former EastEnders Gillian Taylforth, chronicling the adventures of a British family following the World Cup. Channel Four, meanwhile, is in production with the first gay soap. If public opinion was the point at which *EastEnders* came in, it is probably there that it should return - along with other soaps - in the name of market research, or its future may yet be as bleak as its storylines.

'Lakesiders', tonight, BBC1, 8.30pm

Blubbing hysteria and pitiable prats

SOUNDING OFF



TERENCE BLACKER
Confessional TV offers insight into real lives like a circus offers insight into the real life of an elephant - it serves only to legitimise the sleazy tabloid sensibility in us all

guidance on tricky subjects - the *Oprah Winfrey Show* has an honourable record in this area - most of these programmes pander to the least attractive aspects of the contemporary character - exhibitionism, emotional incontinence, fake intimacy and a nasty, judgmental prurience. It is often not the blubbing, hysterical guests who are truly pitiable but the prats in the audience, who are keening with the righteous indignation of good-hearted folk everywhere.

Recently, Suzanne Moore was arguing in this paper that the point of these programmes was that they provided a platform for ordinary people, thus providing a rare break from middle-class media types who normally dominate the airwaves. Was she serious? Confessional TV provides an insight into real lives like a circus provides an insight into the real life of a tasseled elephant. The mess of these people's existence - sexual confusion, domestic vendettas, grindingly unhappy marriages - is being served up as entertainment, providing a daily drip-drip of sensation, anger and cruelty - which only legitimises the sleazy tabloid sensibility in us all.

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THE RATINGS

Terrestrial

What the statistics below don't tell you is the average weekly viewing hours per person - 23.51. Scary. That includes, by the way, an average of just over half an hour a week spent watching Channel 5. Terrifying.

CHANNEL	TOTAL SHARE
All TV	100%
BBC1	31%
BBC2	10.3%
All BBC	41.3%
All ITV	34%
Channel 4/S4C	9.6%
Channel 5	4.0%
All commercial TV	47.6%

CHANNEL 5

Speaking of Channel 5, only the documentary *Stags and Hens* broke the 2m mark

PROGRAMME	TOTAL (MILLIONS)
1 Stage and Hens	2.16
2 Confessions	1.63
3 Deadly Silence	1.50
4 Family Affairs (Fri/Sun)	1.08
5 All She Ever Wanted	1.03
6 Family Affairs (Thur/Fri)	3.00
7 Race Against The Dark	0.99
8 Switched At Birth	0.99
9 Family Affairs (Mon/Tue)	0.91
10 Water Rats	0.90
11 Family Affairs (Wed/Thur)	0.90

SKY

Figures for Sky make for mildly risible reading - the company's flagship channel, Sky 1, for example, attracts just 4.4 per cent of total viewing. Down below Sky Sports 3, it's a huge sea of zeros.

CHANNEL	TOTAL SHARE
1 Sky 1	4.40%
2 Sky Movies Screen 2	1.73%
3 Sky Movies Screen 1	1.4%
4 Sky News	1.3%
5 Sky Sports 2	1.0%
6 Sky Sports 1	0.7%
7 Sky Movies Gold	0.5%
8 Sky Sports 3	0.2%

GRANADA BREEZE

And in the nether reaches lurk Rosemary Conley and Roddy Llewellyn...

PROGRAMME	TOTAL (MILLIONS)
1 R Conley's Cookbook (Sat)	0.04
2 R Llewellyn's Indoor Garden (Sat)	0.04
3 Style Wars (Sat)	0.03
4 Sally Jessy Raphael (Fri)	0.02
5 Thirtysomething (Thur)	0.02
6 R Conley's Cookbook (Sun)	0.02
7 Sally Jessy Raphael (Sun/16.00)	0.01
8 E in Focus	0.01
9 Sally Jessy Raphael (Sun/9.00)	0.01
10 Great British Food	0.01

Copyright: BARB (For week ending 21.6.)

NETWORK

Why software billionaires are an endangered species

IN THE future, software is going to be free. No one's ever going to make money selling software again. Get used to it.

There will never be another Microsoft, or at least another monster company that makes billions the way Microsoft did.

Maybe I'm being a little premature - but, then again, the trend is very clear; even if it's a little hard to understand. Modern software is, after all, one of the most difficult endeavours in the annals of human travail. To make a lowly word processor, by and large, requires something like the same amount of effort that built medieval cathedrals or the Egyptian pyramids.

Millions of hours of labour are involved in major software projects like operating systems: thousands of people have worked for decades to create the ephemeral patterns of electrons and gossamer webs that disappear at the flick of a computer's "off" switch.

For most of human history, skills have been the surest

source of a paycheque there was. Craftsmen did far better, remuneration-wise, than common labourers, and greatly skilled artisans were courted by kings and queens. Computer programmers have an almost frightening depth of skill. Even young ones may have spent 10 years learning a small part of their trade - dedication which harks back to the near-slavery of ancient apprenticeships.

Notre Dame's artisans were raw recruits in terms of time spent boning skills, compared with today's code writers. Ancient Egypt's hieroglyphs were kid's stuff compared with Java, C, or for that matter, BASIC programming code.

Entire ancient dynasties left less-enduring intellectual capital than one of today's short-lived startups.

And, if I'm right, these modern people are expected to work for free, after spending decades learning their trade. What gives? Even an ancient empire's slaves could count on a meal and a



CHRIS GULKER

The 'freeware' software archives, abundant on the Net, offer almost any capability that one could desire from a computer

straw bed at the end of the day.

Marc Andreessen, a founder of Netscape, and, arguably, as good an authority on modern software as there is, has said as much. He believes we all have too much software as it is, and soon we'll get all we need for free.

He should know. Netscape has been giving its browser software away free for years. It has even released its source code free on the Internet. Source code is software's top-secret plans - the Crown Jewels, as it were - that software companies used to guard more carefully than money. Microsoft still does.

Netscape's ploy was to give away free browsers and then sell the server software that publishers needed to reach the browsers. When Microsoft showed up and started giving their Internet Information Server software away for free, one would have thought the game was over.

But not. A large and loosely organised confederation of Internet-based programmers put a superior product called Apache on the Internet for free. Apache not only has by far the dominant market share, but has even been embraced by IBM, still arguably the world's largest computer company, as the standard for Internet server software.

Apache was pieced together from thousands of individually contributed pieces - software referred to as "patches". It's a "patchy" server, hence "Apache". Mighty Microsoft is one of the very few companies that can put a thousand highly paid engineers to work on a software project: yet Apache can claim tens of thousands of expert, if unpaid, contributors.

Linux, the free clone of the UNIX operating system, has grown from 100,000 seats in 1994 to perhaps 9 million in 1998. Dozens of companies prosper just by packaging and distributing the Linux code on CD-Rom with an instruction manual.

The "freeware" software archives, abundant on the Net, offer almost any capability that one could desire from a computer. There are sophisticated word processors by the dozen, music and video editing software, astronomical simulators, zoological programs, horoscopes, heavy-duty

databases, improvements to major commercial operating systems, screen savers, news-gathering software, sophisticated agent programs that find the least expensive merchandise, suites of business software akin to Microsoft Office, and video-conferencing software, to name but a few.

The word processor Microsoft Word handled with a spreadsheet, presentation software, e-mail package and Web browser cost me \$89 - which I paid mainly because I was used to it and Microsoft has done such a nice job on Office 98 for the Mac. I could have easily gotten all the pieces more cheaply from Corel, which markets WordPerfect, or a half-dozen other companies.

I could have gotten it all completely for free: there's a version of Linux for my computer, and the various distributions include word processors, spreadsheets, e-mail programs, Web browsers, Web servers, etc. free along with the operating system.

Now, if only the computer were free ...

cg@gulkner.com

Battle for the sofa surfers

The big players are spending millions trying to get the PC-less connected to the Internet via their televisions. By Cliff Joseph

FOR YEARS, computer industry leaders have been predicting the arrival of set-top boxes that will bring television and the Internet together. It has not happened yet, but billions of pounds are being spent on developing these little black boxes and getting them into our homes.

Bill Gates, the Microsoft chairman, has predicted set-top boxes that allow TVs to connect to the Net will soon outnumber PCs in US homes. "There's no doubt that some time in the next three to 10 years we'll cross over that threshold," he said.

If we do not cross that threshold soon, it is not for lack of trying. Microsoft is just one of the several computer, telecommunications and television companies that are working together to achieve the convergence of television and the Internet.

Microsoft has done a deal with US cable company TCI, itself recently acquired by the telecoms giant AT&T, to supply its Windows CE software for use in five million set-top boxes. Microsoft also owns WebTV, the only set-top box to achieve any success so far, and has a \$1bn investment in another cable company, Comcast. Microsoft and BT are currently trying out WebTV in the UK, and last week the BBC joined the partnership. In addition, the online service America Online (AOL) recently bought NetChannel, WebTV's only real rival, and media giant Time-Warner is working on a set-top box that will provide both video-on-demand and Internet access.

Microsoft would like to control set-top boxes in the same way that it controls the personal computer industry. However, it has competition from Sun Microsystems' Java, and Perios, an operating system developed by Sony. Along with these there are newcomers such as PowerTV and @Home that are working on their own Internet-TV systems, and General Instrument has orders from a group of 12 smaller cable companies for some 15 million set-top boxes.

The reason for all this furious wheeling and dealing is simple. Only 40 per cent of US homes have a PC, and only half of those have a modem that will allow them to connect to the Internet. Higher telephone

charges mean that Internet use in Europe is even lower. But a set-top box that costs less than \$500 could easily find its way into every home that has a television. That's a huge potential market, representing hundreds of millions of homes worldwide, and it is worth vast amounts of money.

The Internet-TV phenomenon began several years ago when ex-Apple Computer employee Steve Perlman was surfing the Web one evening. He came across some recipes on the Campbell's Soup site and it occurred to him that most of the Internet users he knew were young men who lived on a fast-food diet of pizzas and hamburgers. Those guys wouldn't be interested in soup recipes, and the sort of people who might be interested generally did not have PCs or access to the Internet. So Perlman developed the WebTV set-top box to allow people without computers to view the Internet through their televisions.

It is a nice idea. Unfortunately, it has not taken off yet. NetChannel was forced to sell out to AOL in May because it had only enlisted around 10,000 subscribers. WebTV has done better. It currently has 300,000 subscribers in the US, and claims to be on target for a million by the end of this year. But even a million subscribers is nowhere near the level that Microsoft needs in order to recoup its vast investment in WebTV and other Internet-TV projects.

The problems are not technical but lie in the nature of the Internet itself. The Net is a new medium, immature and unregulated, and a lot of the material on it is plain rubbish. The WebTV box costs \$300, with a further \$19.95 subscription fee every month. At the moment, the Net, for the average consumer, just does not offer enough interesting content to justify that price.

That is why some of the biggest deals that have been made recently have been about content rather than technology. TCI spent \$2bn buying a stake in Rupert Murdoch's TV Guide magazine so that it can use the TV Guide Web site to develop EPGs - electronic programme guides that can be delivered to televisions via its set-top sites. WebTV also uses the TV Guide site

to provide programme information to its users, and has strong links with TV companies such as the Discovery Channel, and now, the BBC. In fact, WebTV's marketing focuses on its links with TV, rather than on the Net itself. "If you're a TV addict, something that gives you a better viewing experience will have an automatic audience," says Tom Bowman of Microsoft UK.

WebTV allows television companies to embed "crossover links" within their programmes. These links can be activated by a remote control unit and take you to the broadcaster's Web site, where you can get more information about its programmes,

buy merchandise, or follow other links to related sites on the Net. Sports fans can use WebTV to check statistics on regularly updated Web sites. Soap fans can catch up on show gossip, and followers of cult series such as Star Trek or The X-Files can join online discussions with other fans. The emphasis is on enhancing your enjoyment of your favourite TV shows, rather than on the Internet for its own sake.

But it is AOL's recent takeover of NetChannel that could point the way forward for Internet-TV. AOL is the world's largest Internet service, with around 12 million subscribers. Its success is largely due

to its content, which includes a wide range of news and entertainment in addition to basic Internet access. At the moment, AOL can only offer its content to users who have a PC, but buying NetChannel's set-top box technology gives it a way of offering that content to anyone who has a television.

"The NetChannel team has done pioneering work," says Barry Schuler, head of AOL's interactive services division. "It will provide valuable insights to extend AOL's features to other interactive platforms."

But, like WebTV, AOL is still trying to find the right way of selling Internet-TV to consumers. "There are a lot of things that have

to happen before we step into interactive TV," says Schuler. "Companies have to figure out how to fiddle with consumers' sacred altar - their TV - without losing them."

In a way, much of the money being spent on developing set-top boxes is being wasted. It is the content that comes through the boxes, rather than the technical details of the hardware, that matters. Until someone comes up with something interesting enough to drag the world's couch potatoes away from the football and film channels, set-top boxes are just so much plastic and wires. Just for once, Bill Gates may have got it wrong.

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IN TODAY'S NETWORK SECTION

Winning machines: England may be out of the world cup but they are still in with a chance at the Robot World Cup

Slipping through the net: the growth of electronic commerce could offer drug barons their nirvana when it comes to money laundering

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THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGES 17&18 →

Celebrity has its price on the Net

From tonyblair.com to woodyallen.com to monicalewinsky.com, famous domain names are now up for grabs. By Oliver Burkeman



Tony Blair, Woody Allen and Monica Lewinsky, whose names have all been registered by 'warehouses' for Internet domains, exploiting the fact that there is little or no copyright on the names of famous people

THEY WERE the mercenaries of the online revolution: opportunistic cyber-pirates out to make a quick buck or enterprising pioneers championing a profoundly democratic technology, depending on your point of view. The courts came down hard on them—but they're back.

Known as "warehouses", their stock-in-trade was Internet domain names—the addresses in cyberspace such as independent.co.uk, at which businesses and individuals house their web sites. An instantly recognisable name is a vital marketing tool, and the warehousing recognised this. They registered the names of major corporations for as little as £20 before demanding up to £100,000 to release them to the businesses concerned. No company, no matter how powerful in conventional terms, was safe.

In recent years, though, it seemed that trademark law had triumphed. When two 23-year-old Londoners, Richard Conway and Julian Nicholson, registered domain names such as harkering.com and virgin.org, and offered to sell them for tens of thousands of pounds, a legal action by four of the businesses involved, on the grounds that the names were trademarked, forced them to back down. The two men have appealed, and their case is pending. An American, who registered har-

rds.com, surrendered the name when the store threatened action. Numerous other names have been reassigned to trademark holders.

But if a case heard recently in a Los Angeles court is anything to go by, warehousing is far from dead. It has just diversified away from trademarked corporate names and towards potentially lucrative personal names.

tonyblair.com has been been nabbed by an Oregon-based company defiantly calling itself Naughty Page

Twenty seven country music artists filed a lawsuit against Jim E Salmon, a California businessman, who purchased their names among 400 he bought in 1996. For a brief period, country fans who thought they were accessing their heroes' web sites found themselves confronting pornographic sites instead.

Salmon is not alone. The domain names tonyblair.com and princessdiana.com have

been nabbed by an Oregon-based company defiantly calling itself Naughty Page. Nelsonmandela.com, borisjeltsin.com, Jeremyironson.com and gwynethpaltrow.com are just a few of hundreds registered by Friend to Friend, a Kansas organisation, while the domain brokers, QConnection, will sell you jamieleecurtis.com for \$7,500, tomseleck.com for \$5,000, and zsazsagabor.com for a paltry \$2,500.

The country singers won their case after a judge ruled that Salmon's activities had involved infringing a trademark. But most personal names—including those of celebrities—aren't trademarked. And while InterNIC, the US registry which controls the licensing of domains ending in .com, has sided with trademark owners when disputes have arisen, the rules regarding personal names are vague.

InterNIC requires a trademark to put a domain name on hold, so a lot of these names are not going on hold," says Ari Goldberger, a New Jersey lawyer specialising in domain name disputes, and whose own address, esqwire.com, elicited the (ultimately fruitless) rage of the Hearst Corporation, publishers of *Esquire* magazine. "Instead, the people involved have to file a lawsuit in state court, and that can have a negative backlash," he says—for example, by generating adverse publicity in the conventional media.

There are two huge benefits to be gained by owning a celebrity domain name. One is simply the power to sell it to somebody who wants it—including the celebrity in question. Thus a firm called SiteLeader is generously "reserving" the name monicalewinsky.com "for Monica Lewinsky to convey to the American People the TRUE story of the White House Incident"—presumably at a price.

The second big advantage is the massive increase in "traffic" generated for a site, when people searching for information on a celebrity point their browsers to their name, or type it into a search engine. "The first 90 days that we were on the Net," boasts QConnection, "we received over 100,000 hits to our web site."

That traffic can be used in a variety of profit-making ways. For example, princessdiana.co.uk links to an Internet services company while impressively lateral-thinking, woodyallen.com offers a pay-to-view porn site entitled "A Tribute to Oriental Women".

Strangest of all is the Friend to Friend Foundation, who use their celebrity names to link to a charity fund-raising site full of fire-and-brimstone Christianity. Tap in garrisonkeller.com and you're two clicks

away from the warning that "by God's standards of righteousness, even the most moral person [is] a desperate sinner on his way to Hell—you must throw yourself altogether at the mercies of God." One way to get into His good books, it seems, is to make a financial contribution. Anyone who wants their name back, the foundation says, can have it for free—but might also like to make a donation.

Owners of the domain name woodyallen.com offer a pay-to-view porn site entitled 'A Tribute to Oriental Women'

For those who object to the usage of their names for such purposes, the potential for redress remains unclear.

"If it's just a shared name, well, lots of people have the same name, and it's first come, first-served," says Cheryl Regan of Network Solutions Inc, which runs InterNIC on a contract from the US Department of Commerce. "But if it was a pornographic site contrary to someone's

image, then they might have some grounds."

"Should I be able to register robinwilliams.com, for example, and put stuff on my site that he might not like?" asks Ari Goldberger. "If hypothetically, I thought he was a bad influence on society and I wanted to start a national debate, then robinwilliams.com would be the address to use. A lot of people in the US are trying to wrap themselves in the Fifth Amendment like that"—basically usage of the name on the constitutional right to free speech.

Sympathy for celebrities may be in understandably short supply—but the trend is hitting other names, too. The Vancouver-based FreeView Inc, for instance, has bought up hundreds of common surnames and offers them for use in e-mail addresses on a subscription basis.

While the law regarding personal names takes time to catch up with activity on the Net, domains are being snapped up fast—at the rate of 100,000 a month, according to one estimate—and the impending expansion of the addressing system will only increase demand.

Yet opportunities do still exist for those entrepreneurs that are willing to take the risk. Tonyblair.com has already been purchased. But williamhague.com remains unclaimed.

Photos by numbers

The digital camera is evolving fast, and you will already get twice as much for your money as you did last year. By Nicola Lynch

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A PICTURE is worth a thousand words in today's modern world, but there are disadvantages in using traditional photography. You usually have to go through a third party to get the picture processed. Then you are left with an image you can't manipulate unless you use a graphic designer. And if you want to send the image to anyone, you have to get a copy and send it through the post.

Digital cameras are the solution to many of these problems. On the market for some time, they have been decreasing in price as well as increasing in functionality. In its August edition, PC Magazine (www.pcmag.co.uk) put seven of the latest digital cameras through their paces.

Setting a price limit of £1,000, it looked at the latest cutting-edge digital cameras that can capture images in resolutions of at least 1024 x 768 pixels. The prices ranged from just under £400 for the Konica Q-M100 to a little over £280 for the Olympus Camedia C-1400L. Last year, the same money would have got you a camera with half the functionality.

All the cameras in the review had integrated LCD panels, except for the Olympus model that had the more traditional through-the-lens (TTL) viewfinder. None of the cameras used a fixed-focus lens and some even had optical zoom capabilities.

Accessories like carrying cases, additional storage media and power supplies are increasingly supplied as standard, rather than being optional extras. In addition, features such as flash override, spot metering and automatic white balance help to make the final image capture as true to the original image as possible.

PC Magazine tested the cameras in a variety of conditions, and put them through

rigorous usability testing to see if they really were usable by a consumer as opposed to professional photographers. The results were interesting.

Manufacturers such as Kodak, Konica, Sanyo and Epson all retain the appearance of traditional cameras, while the Agfa, Fujifilm and Olympus diverge considerably. The testers felt that the Olympus was intended for professionals, so the fact that it was bulky was felt to be less of a problem. The Agfa, with its swivel lens, allows you to get unusual shots, such as over a crowd. However, testers felt that it was cumbersome to use.

At the other end of the scale Fujifilm's camera was so compact that testers tended to obscure the lens when taking shots, and accidentally pressed buttons. Overall, the testers' satisfaction scores tended to stand at odds with their productivity and intuitiveness scores, indicating that no camera had completely the right balance.

Having to wait 20 seconds between shots while the camera saves the previous image was one of the irritations reported by testers. Battery life can also be very limited: 45 minutes in some cases and less than half of the cameras came with rechargeable batteries.

Taking a balance of features, picture quality and usability scores into account, the Konica Q-M100 was awarded the PC Magazine Editor's Choice award. It was also the least expensive camera in the review, retailing at £399.99 (ex VAT), and including an AC adapter, carrying case and software.

However, if it is pure image quality that you are interested in, then it has to be the Olympus Camedia C-1400L, which earned it a richly deserved recommendation.

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Three lions on the shirt, 22 robots on the pitch

And no jokes about Arsenal v Spurs, either. RoboCup 98 is deadly serious for robotics researchers – and they reckon in 50 years they'll have a team to beat Brazil. By Paul Lavin

ENGLAND HAS a good chance of winning the World Cup in France this week if only it can overcome the might of Japan and the USA. Sorry. I'm being ridiculous. The Germans will probably win again. As in life, England will do well to finish in the top half in the robot world cup (RoboCup 98), which concludes in Paris on Thursday. Although it does boast probably the best goalkeeper, as David Seaman has shown, that is no guarantee of victory.

England will join some 100 teams in four different leagues, including virtual robots, from more than 20 countries, and involving 1,000 researchers, all seeking to lay the groundwork for an eventual robot triumph over mankind.

RoboCup's primary aim is to give a focus to artificial intelligence and robotics researchers, enabling them to pit their technologies against each other in as realistic a way as possible. Current hardware and software limitations means that they had to simplify football's rules, with no off-sides and no contact allowed. But, the organisers hope to produce a robotic team capable of beating the human world champions – something they believe is possible within 50 years.

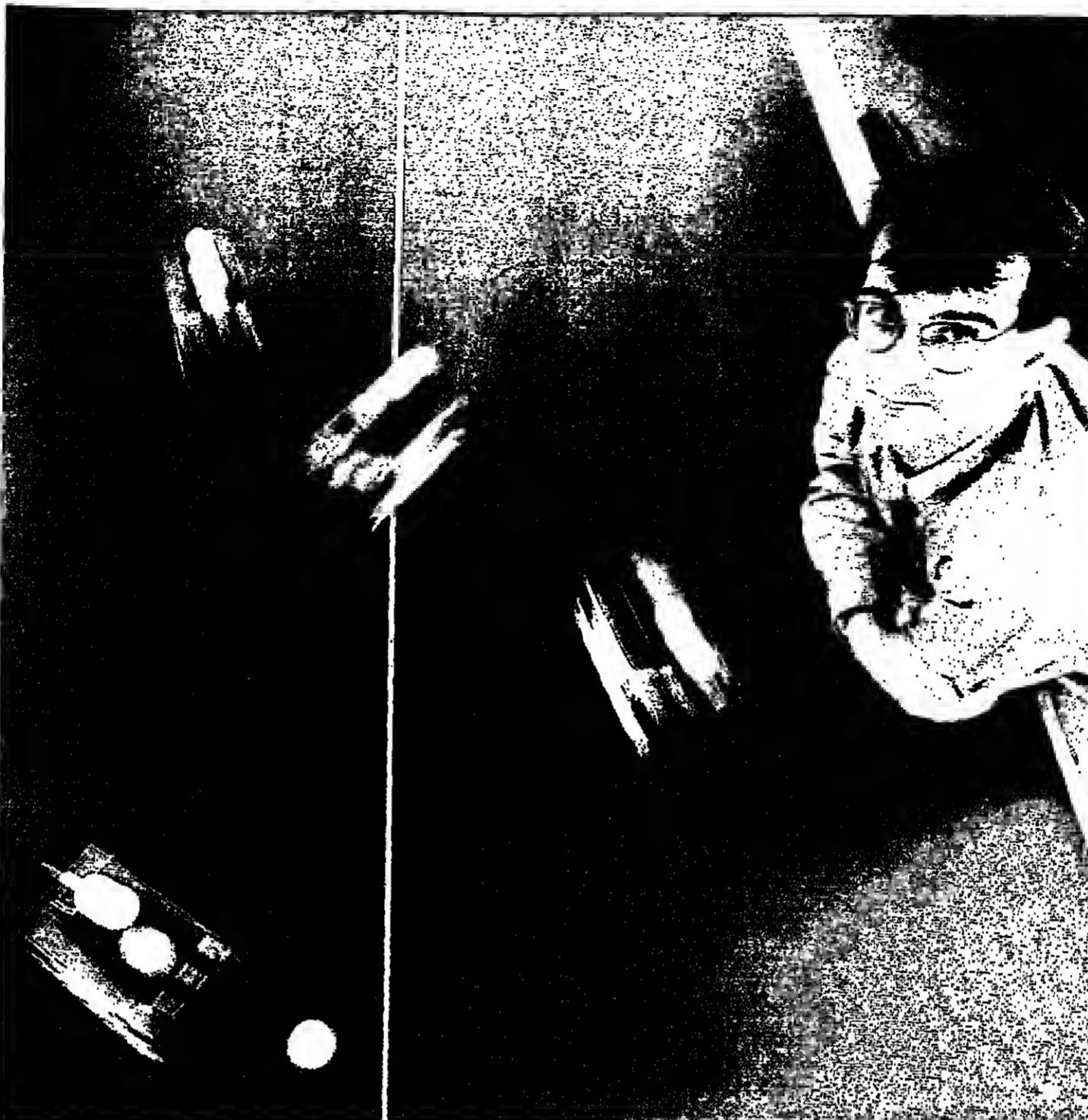
This is a considerable challenge, as a football pitch is such "an unpredictable environment", according to England's team manager, Dr Antony Rowstron, research associate at Cambridge University's laboratory for communications engineering. "We could pick any sort of game, but football's good because people understand what it's about – getting the ball in the back of the net – so you can have simple rules."

Cambridge is playing in the small-size robot league, a five-a-side game played on a table-tennis table using an orange golf ball. The robots are no bigger than about 14cm by 10cm, except for the goalkeeper, which is England's secret weapon. It is T-shaped, catching the ball in its stem using video tracking to position itself correctly, it swings around through 90 degrees and fires the ball back out from its left-hand side at some three-metres per second using an air cannon.

This allows England to play the sort of long-ball game Jack Charlton would be proud of. Although the goalie is not allowed to score, the team has written special algorithms which enable it to line up with another player and cannon the ball into the opposition net. "As our defence is stronger than our attack, being able to do this helps us significantly. Although we're expecting some low-scoring games," Dr Rowstron says.

There are 11 teams in the league, and Dr Rowstron hopes to reach the top half. "We'll be unlikely to win because there are some teams who've been working on it for two years and have played real games," whereas England's nine-month gestation has only involved training matches among its squad. As teams can use different technologies, they will have to cope with a wide variety of tactics.

In this league, they have a camera mounted above the table, which spots two ping pong balls fixed to the robot's heads. One of these is in the



Dr Anthony Rowstron, the Glenn Hoddle of robotics, says he tries to make his players as dumb as possible Grant Norman

team colour; while the others are different for each player, allowing the computers controlling the play to identify each robot and which direction they are pointing. England's spotting computer passes this information to the strategic PC (both standard 300 MHz Pentiums), which then transmits the moves to the robots, which each contain a single PIC processor – except the goalie, which has three.

The positioning software was written in Java, which Dr Rowstron admits "was a gamble". He had been seduced by the promise that Java development would take 20 per cent less time than C or C++, but then found the resulting code was too slow. Luckily, they were able to get a new, pre-release compiler from IBM that makes the code just as quick as if it were written in C++.

"Some of the [...] try to make each player autonomous, but we're not," Dr Rowstron explains. "Some members of the group are working on thin client [network computer] re-

search, and we're trying to make the robots as dumb as possible." Modelled on David Beckham, perhaps? If they put an individual PC on each player, as some other teams do, the robots get slower, heavier and use more power, "whereas we've got lightweight players which are cheap to produce".

This, and sponsorship from Olivetti and Oracle Research Labs, has allowed Cambridge produce 11 players, so that it can also take part in an exhibition tournament with J-Star (the Japanese Sony team) and Carnegie Mellon University (small robot winners of the inaugural RoboCup last year), which should be the first match to feature 22 robots on one pitch (any jibes of the "what about Arsenal vs Spurs" variety are greeted by a stony silence – mainly because Dr Rowstron doesn't follow real football, although several of the eight-person research team are "football mad").

As technology allows, the task will get more difficult. The camera above

the pitch will soon be outlawed in favour of individual cameras on each robot. The walls around the pitch are also going to be removed, while an offside law will be introduced once the technology can cope with it.

There are three other leagues: for mid-sized and three-legged robots and for simulations, which Dr Rowstron believes is the best league for pure artificial intelligence research. It is also much cheaper to enter and, as a single programmer could create a team, is much more accessible, although they will have to beat the reigning champions, Humboldt University, from Germany.

The simulator league has some 50 teams of 11 individual players (pieces of software) running on a pitch created inside a server. The applications can only talk to the server, not each other, so they have to make their own decisions.

"It is very difficult, because you have no global picture of what is happening. In a way, it is much more like

real football. You can make a player shout, but only other players within so many metres can hear it," Dr Rowstron says.

The exhibition alongside the competition features one development every real football fan should welcome, with several systems automatically generating commentary for matches initially in the simulation league.

The software understands what is going on in the game, analyses each player's performance, puts forward hypotheses on various topics and commentates fluently in different languages. Food for thought, perhaps, for Kevin Keegan and his colleagues in the TV commentary box.

RoboCup 98 continues until Thursday at La Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, Paris, in conjunction with ICMS-98 (International Conference on Multiagent Systems) and AgentWorld 98. More information on the Web: <http://www.robocup.org/>

How to give yourself a kick up the web site

IF YOU have been surfing the Web any time in the past several months then you have more than likely come across the term Dynamic HTML, or DHTML for short. Is this some new form of the Hypertext Markup Language? Some new computer language like JavaScript or Java? No.

I'll let you in on a little secret: there really isn't a DHTML. At least not in the way that there is an HTML or a JavaScript. Dynamic HTML is a marketing term that both Netscape and Microsoft have coined to describe a series of technologies that they introduced in the 4.0 versions of their Web browsers.

Although there is no standard definition of DHTML, there are a few things that DHTML should be. First, DHTML should make use of HTML tags and scripting languages without requiring the use of any software other than the browser. Also, as with HTML, DHTML should work cross browser and cross platform. Finally, DHTML should enhance the interactivity and appearance of the Web page.

So what makes a Web page more dynamic? I think we can agree on a few things:

• Dynamic documents allow the designer control over the layout and visual appearance of the content in the window.

• Dynamic documents can exactly position any element in the window and change that position after the document has loaded.

• Dynamic documents react and change with the actions of the site visitor.

• Dynamic documents hide and show content as needed.

Unfortunately, Netscape and Microsoft don't exactly agree on what technologies should be used to add dynamism to HTML.

The Web was founded on a simple premise: Web documents should display indifferent to the software being used. In order to evolve, however, newer browsers have had to add new technologies not supported by legacy (older) browsers.

Think of the two versions of DHTML as two circles. Where those circles overlap is the realm of cross-browser DHTML, which we can use to create dynamic content for both browsers simultaneously.

Cross Browser DHTML

The following technologies will run pretty much the same regardless of the DHTML browser being used unless otherwise noted.

• Cascading Style Sheets: Level 1 CSS allows you to define how HTML tags should display their content.

Positioning CSS-P allows you to position exactly HTML elements anywhere in the screen as well as control the

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

Dynamic HTML should enhance the interactivity and appearance of your page

element's visibility. • JavaScript: this lets you create simple code to control Web page behaviour. And both browsers can use JavaScript to control positioned elements, allowing you to make them appear and disappear.

Netscape-specific DHTML Netscape has put several new technologies on the table hoping to create more dynamic Web pages. Unfortunately these will never become standards as CSS does most of the same things and is endorsed by the W3C.

• JavaScript Style Sheets: Like CSS, JSS allows you to define the way in which HTML tags display their content, but uses a JavaScript syntax.

• Layers Like CSS-P: layers allow you to control the position of elements on the screen and whether they are visible or not.

Microsoft-specific DHTML

Much of the Microsoft-specific DHTML is based around proprietary Microsoft software such as ActiveX technology, unlikely ever to be a cross-browser technology.

• Visual Filters: this allows you to perform visual effects on graphics and text in your document.

• Dynamic CSS: unlike Navigator 4, which can only use JavaScript to control CSS, Internet Explorer can also use JavaScript to control Cascading Style Sheets. The upshot is that you can change the way text and other content looks even after the document has loaded.

Over the next few months I will be exploring the concepts that make up Dynamic HTML in more detail, and hopefully show you some ways to spruce up your site without sacrificing backwards compatibility.

E-mail comments to Jason at jason@webdesign.mindspring.com

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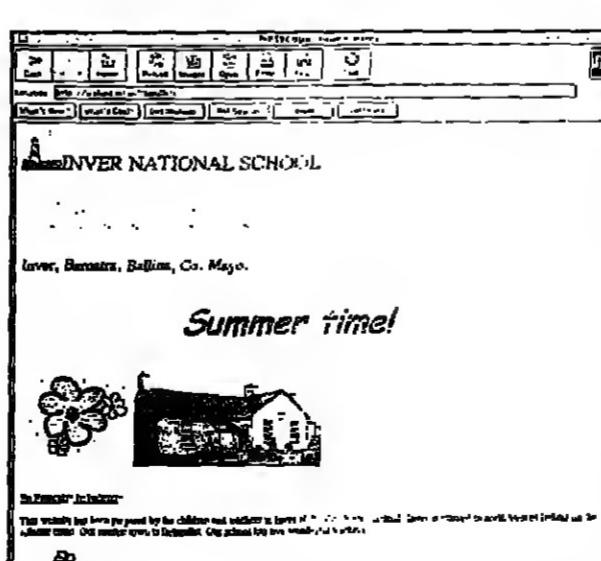
BILL PANNIFER

Coast of Ireland School was surely never like this: they all love their teachers, for one thing. Individual pupils display their own interests – "Hi! I'm Laura and I like pigs" – while the principal's history lesson covers events since the first Hedge School took place here in 1836. Technically, it's far from naive – music tinkles away in the background and the kids can be heard voicing selected phrases in their native Irish, such as "I don't like porridge" or "I like the Spice Girls". Everything is so relentlessly sunny and floral the occasional road-kill joke, courtesy of the fifth-form, comes as something of a relief. But with its seascapes, lighthouse pictures and cotton-wool clouds, it offers the world a glimpse of education probably unavailable anywhere else.

The Inver National School
<http://ireland.iol.ie/~hmuller/>
"Summertime!" announces this primary-coloured, primary school site from the West

er keyboard has supplanted traditional writing skills in the classroom might want to look here at the results of Parker's recent handwriting competition, where eight-year-old winners display immaculately scripted passages from *The General Prologue* and *The Owl and the Pussycat*. Elsewhere nib-wielders are granted their own little bits of technospeak – so let's hear it for the feeder capillary groove and the iridium pellet. There's a history of writing, with a timeline from cuneiform to copperplate, and various facts to provoke amazement among young penpushers.

Tortured Norms
<http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Park/2495/>
"Her name is Slave. After I created her I placed her in a small area, surrounded by five Grandels. I left her there for about 20 minutes, heating her when she attempted to defend herself. After she was sufficiently traumatised, I put her back in the garden. By the time I exported her, she was a quivering mass of fear." This (heavily censored) extract



gives an idea of the flavour of this site. Norms are cyber-characters in a computer game, *Creatures*, which involves the "breeding" and training of customised little artificial "organisms". The oppressively winsome nature of the results has, perhaps inevitably, prompted a reaction, and someone calling himself the AntiNorm has now dedicated a site to treating Norms – whose cuteness quotient

makes Wombles look positively sinister – in a manner most unwholesome. The resultant controversy rages in the news-groups, and the pages of *HotWired*, while the AntiNorm has experienced not just vitriolic abuse but also death threats – the defenders of the cuddly creatures thereby exposing themselves as much more lurid and vindictive than their torturer, which seems to be the AntiNorm's point.

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Practical, full of tricks and very portable, the Newton Pad is a hit with the tennis set. A former Wimbledon champion explains why

(Pat) Cash and carry

I GOT my Newton Pad almost two years ago. I needed something really small that could send faxes and keep names and dates as opposed to putting these things on lots of (lost) pieces of paper. I also wanted a little keypad because I write quite a few articles, especially around tennis time, when people want previews. I can just write it out and fax it through.

It has a really nice format. Paperwork does not have to be type-written, for instance, it can be printed with my own handwriting. Or I can get my boys to draw little pictures which can also be kept in drawing format, keeping the rest of the family sweet when faxed home.

The Newton Pad is also connected to the phone and e-mail. It has pretty much everything.

Most important for me, however, is a separate piece of software that you can get for tennis analysis. I had seen people use them, and a tennis mate of mine from Australia showed me all the software. It seemed perfect.

There are two different types: the "Scout" is used while you are playing and the "Chart Mate" acts as a monitor and will calculate statistics. With the Scout, you write in information about your opponent, their weaknesses, strengths and all sorts of other qualities as notes. The Chart Mate, however, works out the statistics for the match just like the ones you see on television - showing that 75 per cent of the first serves were missed, for instance.

I am not a great one for stats as you can read almost anything into them. Nevertheless, this device on the Newton Pad is more specific than the television statistics. If you miss a forehand shot, for example, you also want to know whether that was a hard shot to return - the Newton works out these finer details.

Tennis coaches carry Newton Pads and I have seen a few tennis players with them, too. I know that Patrick McEnroe, John McEnroe's brother, has one.

There are other notebook computers on the market but they do not do enough for me. This one has worked out just perfectly, although it is a bit more expensive, costing about £400.

I think they are good value. I use it all the time, writing in notes, checking dates and finding telephone numbers. It has not got a huge memory but enough that I can create different files. Normally, I will download from the pad on to my PC and then save it. I also have a storage card, which is like a PC card and about the same size. This keeps all the information. The Newton has all the other things a normal PC has, too, like an alarm, calculator and clock.

The only worry I have is that they do not make them anymore, so if it breaks down I don't know what I would do.

It is really practical. It only needs two AA batteries, which recharge in a couple of hours. You can send faxes from any phone, as long as you have got all the right connections.

However, like any computer, you



The Newton Pad has proved a smash with Cash: 'Most important for me is the software for tennis analysis' Philip Meech

need to buy the extras. Here, I have had no problems at all, which is quite surprising considering that it is an Apple! My storage card got broken because I dropped it, but you can't blame that on the technology.

I use plenty of other gadgets. One, which I do not use anymore, saved my career. The Dual Bio Feedback

Machine has sensors which you strap around your knee and it tests the output of the muscles in that area. I have a knee problem, and one knee had to be stronger than another so I would use it to check the muscles a million times a day - otherwise my kneecap would have been pulled in another direction.

I have a normal computer and a mini-music studio at home with all sorts of equipment left, right and centre, yet I would like to know how to use the stuff a bit better. To be honest, I started learning then ran out of time. I just don't have time at the moment.

I am, like most guys, a gadget

person. You have got to use modern technology because it is the way everything is done these days. It makes life easier. Or a little busier - the mobile doesn't stop ringing at this time of year. It's a joke.

Pat Cash was talking to Jennifer Rodger

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A Net profit for dirty money

The electronic revolution is making money laundering spotless. By Paul Gosling

CRIMINALS LAUNDER some £200bn each year through the world's financial system. But if the existing system leaks drug money like a sieve, the future of electronic commerce may resemble a waterfall.

Governments often seem to have only a slight grasp of the digital world, but for once ministers are getting worried. Last month, the United Nations held a special session on drugs and decided to use the Internet to share information on money moving by the drug cartels. And the G7 group of wealthy countries has agreed a package of measures - including information exchanges between tax authorities - to restrict the flow of dirty money.

The UN General Assembly was told that "megabyte money" poses a new and serious threat. There are 61 offshore financial centres that are poorly regulated and the banks of which have full access to the world's markets, according to a report presented to the conference. One of the report's authors, Washington lawyer Jack Blum, added that many of these "banks" were in reality nothing more than a name and computer for recycling dirty money. Of its 185 UN member states, only 40 comply with a 10-year-old UN anti-money laundering convention.

Banks have been slow to take the problem seriously - some earn large profits from turning a blind eye to laundering. Many banks and Internet service providers that launder money are thought to be owned by large drug gangs. But with the growth of electronic commerce, in which transactions can be conducted without the involvement of banks, the potential for money laundering is much greater.

A recent meeting of the Financial Action Task Force, representing major governments, was told: "Electronic money has the potential to make it easier for criminals to hide the source of their proceeds and move them without detection. Instead of a single shipping container or many false-bottomed suitcases, vast amounts of money could be transmitted instantaneously and securely with a few keystrokes."

Mark Tantam, a forensic audit partner at accountants Deloitte Touche, says that the Internet already makes it easier and safer for drug barons to run their operations at a distance. They use e-mail to issue instructions while living in a country without extradition arrangements. Even if messages are intercepted, and they are arrested, they have the opportunity to deny guilt by

arguing that a hacker got into the system. Their safety is abetted, says Mr Tantam, by Internet providers that refuse to co-operate with police.

Some Web sites, such as some Internet casinos and too-good-to-be-true savings accounts, may be nothing more than money laundering activities, warns Sarah Evans, of the fraud investigations group

Some banks are nothing more than a name and computer for laundering cash

at accountants Ernst & Young.

An additional threat is coming from the latest generation of personal computers fitted with devices that can read smart cards, including electronic purses. Using these, it will be possible to purchase goods online by making a deduction from the stored value on an electronic purse. Users will also be able to transfer sums from one electronic purse to another, online, wherever they are. This should not cause crime enforcement problems with those electronic purses,

such as Visa's, where all transactions are routed through the card issuer. However, the rival Mondex card - backed by the NatWest and HSBC bank groups - can be used to transfer money without notifying a bank or leaving an audit trail. Mondex denies this poses a real threat, as no transaction above £500 will be permitted. "People would have to work incredibly hard to move money," says Mondex spokesman Don Brockbank. "There are other ways that are easier." He did not deny, though, that Mondex cards might assist small-time street dealers in moving and concealing illicit earnings.

But one forensic auditor, who did not want to be named, believes Mondex is complacent. "How secure is their encryption methodology that restricts use up to £500?" he asks. "Drug gangs will probably have the expertise to break through that."

Even without the latest technology, the opportunities available to money launderers are worrying, and many believe that agreements that do little more than promise to share information will do next to nothing to put a brake on the problem. Rowan Bosworth-Davies, author of *The Impact of International Money Laundering Legislation and managing consultant of Unisys's*

risk management programme, is not impressed by the UN resolutions. "These resolutions come out because they have to - there is no point having a summit if there are no resolutions. Whether anything practical will follow I don't know."

Bosworth-Davies believes governments are naive about the digital world. "Electronic money forces us to challenge our concepts of sovereignty and what money is and does. I no longer talk about money - money is something you and I use down the pub, and the amount of cash I take out of the cash machine now is very small. I talk of units of redeemable value."

Those "units of value" might be swapped as promises to supply goods or services in the future, rather than issued currency, and might bypass governments altogether. Bosworth-Davies believes: "How will we transfer units of value in the future?" he asks. "I am deeply pessimistic about the abilities of governments to do anything about the movements of units of redeemable value. We can't stop people speeding on motorways, so how are we to regulate the Internet?"

Is there a solution? Rowan Bosworth-Davies is temporarily lost for words. "I haven't a clue what to do," he sighs.

BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD

WINDOWS NT 5.0 is slipping further behind schedule. Originally announced for release in late 1997, it may now not appear until the second half of next year. The second beta was expected to ship last week, but a Microsoft spokesman said that it should reach developers before the autumn instead.

Mike Nash, the director of marketing for Windows NT Server, said that a third beta and then a "release candidate" version are planned before the software reaches the market.

"Right now we're managing the product milestone to milestones," he said, adding that Microsoft is in no hurry, given the importance of the networking and security features in Windows NT 5.0 and given the continuing success of the 4.0 version, which was released about two years ago.

In units shipped last year, NT 4.0 outsold its competitors - Novell and various Unix vendors - according to figures from IDC. In terms of revenue from sales of server operating system software, Unix variants won the largest share of the \$5.6bn (£3.5bn) market pie, with 45.8 per cent of total revenue. Microsoft's NT took 34.2 per cent of the total market, while Novell's NetWare had 19 per cent.

IBM's OS/2 managed only a 1.1 per cent share.

Microsoft had claimed that Internet Explorer for its Web browser. On the second day of a jury trial in Chicago, Microsoft reached a settlement with lawyers for SyNet, a defunct Illinois software company that claimed the right to the Internet Explorer trademark.

"We are confident that we would have won the case on the merits, but we are pleased to put this issue behind us and resolve any question about Microsoft's right to use the name Internet Explorer," said Mark Murray, a Microsoft spokesman.

Microsoft had claimed that Internet Explorer is a generic name rather than an actual title and argued that other firms, such as Hayes Microsystems, had used the Internet Explorer name before SyNet. If SyNet had continued the case and won, Microsoft faced spending \$30m to remove the name from its software, packaging and manuals.

COMPUSERVE UK last week followed the example of its North American sister company and introduced a monthly dial-up pricing plan. Existing members can choose to stay with their current payment plans, paying \$9.95 for five free hours with hourly surcharges for extra use, or opt to pay \$29.50 (charged in sterling at about £17.95, depending on exchange rates) for unlimited use of basic services. Premium services will still attract extra charges, some multi-player games and enhanced chat services will also be charged at £1.75 per hour.

Such a fee structure still makes Compuserve a relatively expensive way of accessing the Net. However, Martin Turner, UK managing director, said that the subscriber base was a stable one. He added that the company had considered charging a £10 flat rate but decided that such a price was "suicidal". He said: "We're not trying to compete with lower-cost Internet service providers. Our users are sophisticated, hence our price point is higher."

PORTABLE ELECTRONIC books will be a reality by the autumn. In the US, NuvoMedia and SoftBook have announced their hand-held e-books, the RocketBook and SoftBook. Both are about the size of a hardback book and use encryption software to download entire books over the Net. Text and graphics can be the same as in the printed version, or can be modified.

Thousands of pages can be stored in memory - up to 10 novels in the RocketBook. The devices will cost from \$200 to a monthly charge for online services. NuvoMedia has Bertelsmann and Barnes & Noble among its partners. SoftBook has formed partnerships with Random House, HarperCollins and Simon & Schuster. A UK launch date has not been set.

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For any of these posts you will be highly motivated team player, preferably of graduate calibre, who is capable of working independently. Any further demonstrable IT experience will be a distinct advantage. Good communication skills are essential. You will be expected to work at both of the Institute's sites in Chelsea, London and Sutton, South London.

For informal discussions about the posts either e-mail pmartin@icr.ac.uk or telephone Phil Martin on 0181 643 8901 ext 4259.

Interviews for selected candidates will be held on the 28th and 29th of July 1998.

To apply, please send two copies of your CV including the names and addresses of two referees to the Personnel Office, The Institute of Cancer Research, 17a Onslow Gardens, London SW7 3AL quoting the appropriate reference number. Closing date: 10th July 1998.



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NEW FILMS

SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS (12)

Director: Ivan Reitman

Starring: Harrison Ford, Anne Heche

Question: what happens to the action hero who is too old to leap from moving trains and cling to the landing gear of a 747? Answer: he reinvents himself as a romantic lead, rolling around with women half his age instead of alligators or ill-tempered Nazis. The latest actor to undergo this inelegant transformation is Harrison Ford.

An absurdly mechanical screenplay throws a boozey cargo pilot (Ford) together with a New York magazine editor (Anne Heche), who is holidaying in Malakate when she gets a call requesting her presence at a photo shoot in Tahiti. She ropes Ford into flying her there, but a thunderstorm forces them to crash-land on a remote island. The director, Ivan Reitman, has adopted an old-fashioned approach which relies on implausible contrivances, but this qualifies as gritty social realism compared with the moment when Ford and Heche laughably recreate the famous *From Here to Eternity* beach scene. CW: Barbican Screen, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea Road, Virgin Trocadero

GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)

Director: Randal Kleiser

Starring: John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John

See The Independent Recommends, right. CW: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

KURT & COURTNEY (15)

Director: Nick Broomfield

There is a tragically pertinent lesson about the sacrifices which fame demands hidden somewhere in the new documentary *Kurt and Courtney*. But it would take a more intuitive film-maker than Nick Broomfield to wheelie it out. In fact, *Kurt and Courtney* is a voyeuristic freak show, with various

interested parties, each with a stake in the Cobain legend, paraded before us. The film's fatal flaw is that Broomfield places himself above these characters. He can't see that he has become the *maire'd* in this parasites' banquet. CW: Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)

Director: Richard Kwieciowski

Starring: John Hurt, Jason Priestley

Film-makers didn't invent obsession, but it's hard to imagine that it would have flourished with quite the same intensity without the careful nurturing administered by cinema. This occurs to you a short way into *Love and Death on Long Island*, just as the film's reclusive widower, Giles De Ath (John Hurt), wanders into what he believes is a screening of a new E M Forster adaptation. But he has bought the wrong ticket, and finds himself watching *Holypants College 2*, a crass sex comedy reminiscent of *Party's*.

This error proves fortuitous, however, for it introduces him to one of the film's stars, Ronnie Bostock (Jason Priestley); a burgeoning obsession with this young actor in turn forces the old man to confront something which he has spent his life ignoring: the 20th century.

This warm, subtle comedy feels ephemeral at first, but gradually its emotional weight becomes apparent. Although it invites comparisons with *Death in Venice*, these are pegs on which the film hangs, rather than its underpinnings. What the movie is essentially concerned with is the tentative relationship between art and life, the watcher and the watched, and the writer-director Richard Kwieciowski takes great care in tracing the areas where each overlaps with the other.

Grease (above) hasn't improved with age, but at least it hasn't dated either. And it does provide yet more proof, as if we needed it, that John Travolta is a volcano of charisma. It isn't his best performance (he came closer in *Saturday Night Fever* and Brian De Palma's *Blow Out*), though he does make this dumb film feel like fun.

Theatre Dominic Cavendish



STILL GOING strong after six years. Stephen Daldry's landmark staging of *An Inspector Calls* owes its robustness as much to J B Priestley's perennially pertinent assault on hypocrisy and complacency as it does to the emphatic design. Pip Miller stars as the shadowy inspector stepping across a Blitz-blasted landscape to interrogate the smug Birling - whose braying family pride is built on morally shaky ground. Garrick Theatre, London WC2 10171-494 5085 | 7.45pm

If mirth and laughter are more your cuppa, you couldn't do much better than the National's revival of Edward Ravenscroft's Restoration long-runner, *The London Cuckolds*. Terry Johnson's gag-a-millisecond production makes no attempt to add a third dimension to this romp involving three ill-sorted and unfaithful couples - you are simply required to sit back and enjoy the spot-on carry-on, particularly from Caroline Quinlan's (above) Arabella coquette supreme. Lyttelton, National Theatre, London SE1 10171-452 3000 | 7.30pm

Film Ryan Gilbey

IN THE TAUT thriller *Breakdown*, Kurt Russell and Kathleen Quinlan are stranded in the barren American Southwest. You know there's trouble in store because the trucker who offers them a lift is played by the late J T Walsh, an actor who conceivably gave his own mother nightmares. What begins as a simple kidnapping threatens to turn into a cosmic conspiracy - but to reveal any more of the plot would be to jeopardise its tightly interlocked chain of surprises. Prince Charles Cinema, London WC2 10171-811 8111 | 1pm

Grease (above) hasn't improved with age, but at least it hasn't dated either. And it does provide yet more proof, as if we needed it, that John Travolta is a volcano of charisma. It isn't his best performance (he came closer in *Saturday Night Fever* and Brian De Palma's *Blow Out*), though he does make this dumb film feel like fun.

On general release



GENERAL RELEASE

THE APOSTLE (12)

Director Robert Duvall plunges into his role in a manner that is both terrifying and entrancing. West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square

THE BIG LEBOWSKI (18)

Jeff Bridges, John Goodman and Steve Buscemi star in one of the most string-out mysteries ever. West End: ABC Piccadilly Street, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End

THE BIG SWAP (18)

A drab, unconvincing and preachy drama about partner-swapping. West End: Plaza

CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Nicolas Cage plays an angel puzzling over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal woman (Meg Ryan). West End: ABC Baker St, ABC Tottenham Court Rd, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)

Take a suicidal loser preparing to throw himself off a bridge. Add a junkie with a month to live and give them a few months on the road together before an inevitable tearful farewell. Serve with a sick-bag at the ready. Perhaps it's the realisation that *Dream with the Fishes* could so easily have been a nightmare that makes its success seem refreshing and deserved. West End: Metro

GIRLS' NIGHT (15)

Shameless tearjerker with Brenda Blethyn as a cancer-suffering bingo winner who jets off to Las Vegas for a last-chance holiday with her sister-in-law (Julie Walters). Initially bubbly, the picture soon becomes grossly manipulative. CW: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)

Jaunty take on the rites-of-passage genre, set in Leicester in the 1970s. The lively script is complemented by the sparkling performance of Joanne Ward as the film's heroine. West End: Rio Cinema

JACKIE BROWN (15)

The movie's main focus is the desperation of its characters to make something of their lives before it's too late. West End: Plaza

JUNK MAIL (15)

This Norwegian black comedy's portrayal of the Oslo postal service is defamatory at best. Though its mixture of genres isn't entirely successful, *Junk Mail* has enough originality to see it through. West End: Ritzy Cinema

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)

A mannered and vacuous dip into the life of the Beat poet Neal Cassady, played by Thomas Jane. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting, but the film just amounts to the same old Beat clichés. West End: ABC Piccadilly

LIVE FLESH (18)

A novel by Ruth Rendell is the unlikely origin of Pedro Almodovar's most accomplished film to date. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Gate Notting Hill, Curzon Minerva, Odeon Camden Town, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green

MIMIC (16)

Mira Sorvino stars as a doctor who successfully combats a virus that's sweeping New York by developing a rival cockroach species to wipe out the original disease-carriers. The result is an ingenious science-fiction horror fable. CW: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MY SON THE FANATIC (15)

Hamid Kureishi establishes an opposition between an agreeable Pakistani taxi driver and his son, who has his sights set on becoming a fundamentalist Muslim. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)

Romantic comedy in which Paul Rudd confounds Jennifer Aniston's dreams of a wedding and a joint burial plot by turning out to be gay. CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket

PALMETTO (15)

Ironic film noir directed by Volker Schlöndorff. Harry Barber (Woody Harrelson) is the ex-con who gets mixed up with a pair of duplicitous women. CW: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

POINT BLANK (18)

Re-release of John Boorman's chilling existential thriller starring Lee Marvin. West End: Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green

PONETTE (15)

French tale of a precociously intelligent four-year-old girl (Viktore Thivisolv) whose mother dies in a car accident. The young Thivisolv is superb, yet it's hard to deny discomfort at watching one so young parading emotion this raw and primal. CW: Curzon Mayfair, Metro

RED CORNER (15)

Richard Gere's very public pro-Tibet stance must have blinded him to the failings of this chunking piece of anti-Chinese propaganda. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)

Executive-produced by Hong Kong action director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch the American career of his favourite star, Chow Yun-Fat. West End: Virgin Trocadero

SAVIOR (18)

Politically inept war film set during the Bosnian conflict. Dennis Quaid stars as a man who loses his family in a Paris bomb blast and ends up becoming a hired killer. West End: Virgin Haymarket

SLIDING DOORS (15)

Romantic comedy in which its heroine, Gwyneth Paltrow, is sent off into two separate realities at the same time, with two different suitors. West End: ABC Baker St, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

SOUL FOOD (15)

A black version of Parenthood, with all the attendant moralising, sentimentality and studied eccentricity which that implies. West End: Clapham Picture House

STAR KID (PG)

Childish adventure about a young boy who's called upon to save the universe. What it lacks in budget, it makes up for in imagination. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)

Spoof of the Merchant/Ivory movies from one of the talents responsible for *Lean on Me*, *The Pig Farmer*. West End: Plaza, Virgin Chelsea

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)

The joint winner of last year's Palme d'Or has taken a year to get a release over here, but thanks to highly naturalistic performances, it's a hypnotic and moving experience. West End: Ritzy Cinema

THE WAR AT HOME (15)

Tale of a traumatised Vietnam veteran on his return to Texas adapted from James Duff's Broadway play, *Homefront*. CW: Plaza

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)

Dumb but winning comedy about a wedding singer (Adam Sandler) who falls for a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that she's engaged to someone else. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

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10171-737 2121-755 0229 BR| Boulevard

French Twist 2.05pm Grease

(20th Anniversary Edition) 2.10pm

Grease 3.45pm 8.30pm The Object Of My Affection 4.10pm 6.35pm 9pm The Wedding Singer 4pm 6.10pm 8.50pm

Sliding Doors 1pm 3.20pm 5.40pm 9pm

Stiff Upper Lips 1pm 3.20pm 5.40pm 9pm

The Wedding Singer 2pm 4.15pm 6.30pm 9pm

Screen On Baker Street 3pm 5pm 7pm 9pm

Screen On The Green 3pm 5pm 7pm 9pm

Screen On The Hill 3pm 5pm 7pm 9pm

Screen On The Mews 3pm 5pm 7pm 9pm

Screen On The Square 3pm 5pm 7pm 9pm

Screen On The Street 3pm 5pm 7pm 9pm

Screen On The Wall 3pm 5pm 7pm 9pm

Screen On The Water 3pm 5pm 7pm 9pm

Screen On The Woods 3pm 5pm 7pm 9pm

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409)
88: Kingston City Of Angels 2.10pm,
5.45pm, 8.20pm The Ice Storm
1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 2.30pm, 6pm,
8.25pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (315 4217) Highgate City
Of Angels 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm,
8.30pm The Object Of My Affection
1.40pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm Six
Days, Seven Nights 2.20pm, 4.30pm,
6.40pm, 8.55pm

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR:
Peckham Rye City Of Angels 4.10pm,
6.30pm, 8.50pm Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 4pm, 6.30pm,
8.55pm Mimic 3.35pm, 6.05pm,
8.45pm The Object Of My Affection
4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8pm
Soul Food 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley The
Object Of My Affection 5.40pm,
8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights
5.10pm, 8.10pm Sliding Doors 5.50pm,
8.40pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870-9030401) Putney Bridge,
BR: Putney City Of Angels 1pm,
3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Object Of
My Affection 1pm, 6pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm,
8.45pm The Wedding Singer 3.30pm,
4pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

RICHMOND
ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218)
BR/F Richmond City Of Angels
1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The
Object Of My Affection 1.10pm,
3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm,
9.20pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm,
4pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford City
Of Angels 2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)
2.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 2.10pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ODEON LIBERTY [2] 01708-
79010 BR: Romford City Of Angels
12.40pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm
Deep Impact 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm,
8.10pm Grease (20th Anniversary
Edition) 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Mimic 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm,
8.50pm The Object Of My Affection
12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Six
Days, Seven Nights 1.20pm, 4pm,
6.30pm, 8.45pm Sliding Doors
12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm,
8.25pm Everest (1B) 3.20pm, 7.50pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS [2] 01708-
79010 BR: Romford City Of Angels
1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The
Object Of My Affection 1.10pm,
3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm,
9.20pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm,
4pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

SDCUP
ABC (05451-555131) BR: Sidcup City
Of Angels 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Six
Days, Seven Nights 2.30pm, 6pm,
8.30pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR:
Cuckolday City Of Angels 1.30pm,
5.30pm, 8.20pm Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 2.45pm, 5.50pm,
8.15pm Mimic 2.15pm, 4.30pm,
6.45pm, 9.15pm The Object Of My
Affection 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm Six
Days, Seven Nights 1.45pm, 4.5pm,
6.45pm, 8.45pm Sliding Doors
2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm The
Wedding Singer 2.20pm, 7pm

STREATHAM
ABC (070-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill
City Of Angels 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)
2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Sliding Doors
2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm

ODEON [1] 0181-315 4219) BR:
Streatham Hill/Greyhound/Common
Mimic 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm,
8.50pm The Object Of My Affection
1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Six
Days, Seven Nights 1.40pm, 4pm,
6.30pm, 8.50pm Soul Food 12.40pm,
3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm The Wedding
Singer 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE
HOUSE (555 5366) BR/F Stratford
East City Of Angels 3.55pm, 5pm The
Girl With Brains 1.10pm, 3pm The
6.50pm Girls' Night 1.30pm, 6.30pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)
1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm The
Object Of My Affection 1.10pm,
3.45pm, 6.50pm, 8.45pm

SUTTON
UCI 6 (0990-899890) 6R Suton/
Morden City Of Angels 4.15pm,
6.45pm, 9.15pm Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 3.05pm, 5.20pm,
8.35pm Mimic 3.40pm, 5.55pm,
8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.10pm,
3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

UXBRIDGE
ODEON (01895-813139) Uxbridge
City Of Angels 1.30pm, 5.10pm, 8.30pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 1.10pm,
3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-9020424) Walthamstow
Central Mimic 1.25pm, 3.40pm,
6.15pm, 8.40pm The Object Of My
Affection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm,
8.20pm Six Days, Seven Nights
1.15pm, 4.5pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON
(01932-253625) BR: Walton On Thame's
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)
3.05pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-950 3351) BR:
Eitham Mimic 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 3.40pm,
6.30pm, 8.40pm

WILLESDEN
BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822)
Willesden Green City Of Angels 4pm,
6.30pm, 9pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (0181-815 4222) BR:
Wimbledon/South Wimbledon
City Of Angels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm,
8.30pm Grease (20th Anniversary
Edition) 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

The Object Of My Affection 1.10pm,
3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm **Six Days,**
Seven Nights 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm,
8.40pm **Sliding Doors** 1.30pm, 3.45pm,
6.15pm, 8.35pm **The Wedding Singer** 1.30pm,
3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0161-989 3463) South
Woodford City Of Angels 1.15pm,
3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm **The Object Of**
My Affection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm,
8.30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights**
1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

WOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR:
Woolwich Arsenal Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm,
8.35pm **Six Days, Seven Nights**
1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

CINEMA REPERTORY

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE AT THE
INSTITUT FRANCAIS Queensberry
Place SW7 (0171-638 2144/2146) Un
Divan A New York: British Premier
(NC) 7.30pm

ICA Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647) Fall
Alert (NC) 5pm, 7pm **Blanche (NC)**
8.30pm **Mad Phoenix (NC)** 9pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-531 6329)
Way The Dog (15) 2.30pm, 8.30pm
The Day The Earth Caught Fire (NC)
6.15pm **The Day The Earth Caught Fire** (NC)
6.30pm **The Guardian Interview With** Geest: NFT Special Event (NC) 8.45pm

CHICAGO Ruthie Henshall
stars in this hot Broadway musical about
a pair of ménage à trois women. Adelphi
Theatre, Meikle Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055)
Across The Sea Of Time - A New York
Adventure (3-D) (U) 11am, 1.05pm,
5.20pm **L-City In Space (NC)** 12.10pm,
2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.25pm
Everest (1B) 3.20pm, 7.50pm

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical
version of T.S. Eliot's poems. Apollo
Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-405 0072/0171-404 4079)
McFadden Circus: Mon-Sat 8pm,
Sat 4pm, £10.50-£29.10, 15 mins.

POPcorn Lawrence Boswell
directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema
violence. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury
Avenue, WC2 (0171-494 5070)
McFadden Circus: Mon-Sat 8pm,
Sat 4pm, £10.50-£29.10, 15 mins.

RENT Musical inspired by La
Bohème and set in modern-day New York.
Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury
Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399)
Holborn/Covent Garden Court Road, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 8pm, £12.50-
£32.50, 15 mins.

CLASS Season of plays written
by London schoolchildren, and directed by
Mark Raventhil, amongst others. Royal
Court Theatre, Ambassadors' West Street, WC2
(0171-563 1731) **Piccadilly Circus:** Mon-Sat
7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 8pm, £12.50-
£32.50, 15 mins.

REAL INSPECTOR HOUND &
BLACK COMEDY Double bill of drama from Tom Stoppard
and Peter Schaffer, directed by Gregory
Doran. Comedy Theatre, Piccadilly Street,
WC2 (0171-639 0000) **Clipping Cross:** Mon-Sat
8pm, ends 11 Jul, £7-£21.50. St John's
Place (0123-448844/02488610)

RENT Musical inspired by La
Bohème and set in modern-day New York.
Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury
Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399)
Holborn/Covent Garden Court Road, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 8pm, £12.50-
£32.50, 15 mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE
"OLIVER": Dikaboma! Classic
musical from Rodgers and Hammerstein,
featuring the song "What A Beautiful
Morning". In rep, tonight 7.15pm, ends
30ct.

DR DOLITTLE Philip Schofield
talks to the animals in this new stage
adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets.
Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC1 (0171-494 5045)
Piccadilly Circus: Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat
8pm, Sun 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 8pm,
£10-£22.50, 15 mins.

ELTON JOHN'S GLASSES David
Farr's comedy about one man's
obsession with Watford Football Club and
their failure to win the Cup Final in 1994.
Cuckold's Ravenscroft's Restoration
comedy. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 11 Aug,
1.15pm, 195 mins.

COTTESLOE: Copenhagen New
play from Michael Frayn about the discovery
of the atom. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, continuing
7.30pm, 1.15pm, 145 mins. Oklahoma: £12-£32.50. Oliver &
Lytton: £8-£22. Cottesloe: £12-£18.80
Oxford: £12-£22.50. 15 mins.

EVERYMAN Tracey Moffatt: An
Exhibition Of Photographs And Films
First major solo show. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm,
Sun 10am-4pm, £12-£15. St John's
Place (0123-448844/02488610)

HIGH WYCOMBE Devonshire Park
Theatre Murder Is Easy Agatha Christie's
whodunit. In rep, tonight 8.15pm, ends 11 Jul,
8.15pm, £12-£15. Compton Street (0123-412000)

STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew
Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical.
Apollo Victoria, London SE1 (0171-944 0000)
Fri 8pm, Sat 8pm, Sun 7.30pm, mats Sat 8pm,
£12.50-£30, 15 mins.

SWEET CHARITY Bonnie
Langford stars in this classic musical,
featuring the numbers "Hey Big Spender"
and "The Rhythm Of Life". Victoria
Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 5972)
Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus: Mon-Sat
7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 8pm, £12.50-
£30, 15 mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen
Daldry's widely acclaimed production
of J.B. Priestley's thriller. Garrick
Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-852 0088)
Waterloo, Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 11 Jul,
8.15pm, £12-£25. 15 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher
Cazenove and Kate O'Mara in Peter
Shaffer's comedy. Albery Theatre, St Martin's
Lane, WC2 (0171-852 0088) Fri 8pm, Sat
8pm, Sun 7.30pm, mats Thu 8pm, £12-£25.
15 mins.

THE ICEMAN COMETH Kevin
Spacey stars in Eugene O'Neill's
classic tale of power and dreams. Old Vic
Theatre, SE1 (0171-922 7616/6240)
Waterloo, Mon-Sat 8pm, Sun 7.30pm, mats
Sat 8pm, £12-£25. 15 mins.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew
Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical.
Apollo Victoria, London SE1 (0171-944 0000)
Fri 8pm, Sat 8pm, Sun 7.30pm, mats Sat 8pm,
£12.50-£30, 15 mins.

THE UNEXPECTED MAN Michael
Alkins and Anna Carteret star in Ranieri
Pozzo's comedy. Gielgud Theatre, St Martin's
Lane, WC2 (0171-852 0088) Fri 8pm, Sat
8pm, Sun 7.30pm, mats Thu 8pm, £12-£25.
15 mins.

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd
Webber's new musical based on the same
film as the musical. Adelwych Theatre, WC2 (0171-
416 6003/00) 10.15pm-11.30pm, £12-
£25. 15 mins.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Classic
tale of love and lust set in the fairy
land. Open Air Theatre, Park Lane, WC1 (0171-
852 0088) Fri 8pm, Sat 8pm, Sun 7.30pm, mats
Thu 8pm, £12-£25. 15 mins.

LES MISÉRABLES Musical dramatisation
of Victor Hugo's epic. Palace Theatre,
Stratford, E1 (0171-430 0909) **Embarkment:**
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed 8pm, Sat 8pm,
£12.50-£25. 15 mins.

THE MISANTROPE Elaine
Page, Michael Pennington, Peter Bowles
and Anna Carteret star in Ranieri Pozzo's
comedy. The Swan, Strand, WC2 (0171-
852 0088) Fri 8pm, Sat 8pm, Sun 7.30pm, mats
Thu 8pm, £12.50-£25. 1



MONDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.6-98.8MHz FM)
6.00 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball.
9.00 Simon Mayo. **12.00** Jo Whaley. **2.00** Mark Radcliffe. **4.00** Dave Pearce. **6.30** Steve Lamacq - The Evening Session. **8.30** Global Update. **8.40** Andy Kershaw.
10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs. **1.00** Clive Warren. **4.00** Chris Moyles.

RADIO 2
(88.9-92.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. **7.30** Wogan. **9.30** Ken Bruce. **12.00** Jimmy Young. **2.00** Ed Stewart.
5.05 John Dunn. **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton. **8.00** Big Band Special. **8.30** Jools Holland. **9.30** Joe Brown's Good Rockin' Tonight.
10.30 Richard Allinson. **12.05** Steve Madden. **3.00** Alex Lester.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.

12.00 Composers of the Week:
William Byrd and Thomas Tallis.
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
See Pick of the Day.

2.05 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Sams at the Opera.
4.45 Music Machine.

5.00 In Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. The first in a series of three concerts in which Alfred Brendel plays all of Beethoven's piano concertos. Alfred Brendel (piano), Sinfonia Varsovia/Volker Schmidt-Gertenbach: Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 1 in C. Michael Berkeley: Gethsemani Fragment for Strings. Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 4 in G. See Pick of the Day.

9.10 Postscript. Kathleen Griffin begins a week-long exploration of the European spas where the royal, the rich and the artistic flocked for purging, purification and pleasure. 1: Cheltenham - the Musical Spa*. **9.35** Friedrich Dotzauer: Music for three cellos by the largely forgotten German composer Friedrich Dotzauer, performed by Anne Bylsma, Kenneth Slowick and Steven Doane.

10.00 Voices. French poet Charles Baudelaire cast a long shadow over music and literature in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Iain Burnside looks at some of the song

PICK OF THE DAY

LAST YEARS The Coroner was one of the better examples of that overstuffed genre, the fly-on-the-wall job documentary, and Cate Foster, a policewoman working as coroner's assistant, was its down-to-earth, gentle star. She returns to her old job in The Beat (8pm R4), four programmes on the daily grind of policing in and around Bradford, today dealing with a teenager found sleeping rough in a coal bunker. It's a good day for

pianists; in Performance on 3 (7.30pm) Alfred Brendel (right), one of the unquestioned greats, begins a series of three concerts from the Cheltenham Festival in which he plays all of Beethoven's piano concertos - tonight, the first and fourth. The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert (1pm) features Stephen Kovacevich, starting to look like he could be one of the greats, in a programme of Brahms and Schubert.

ROBERT HANKS

composers who came under his spell, including Fauré, Duparc, Debussy and Berg.

10.45 Mixing It. Presented by Mark Russell and Robert Sandall. Saxophonist John Lurie - the quintessential bohemian hipster with a voice to die for - is in session. With him are two of his Lounge Lizards, Mauro Refosco on percussion and Calvin Weston on drums.

11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Samuel Barber. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.5MHz FM)

6.00 Today.

9.00 Start the Week.

9.45 Serial: Reflections.

10.00 NEWS: Women's Hour.

11.00 NEWS: Impostors. (R)

11.30 Babylon.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Words in Music.

2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

2.45 NEWS: Afternoon Play: London Particulars. (R)

3.00 Money Box Live: (071) 580 4444.

3.30 The Great Outdoors. (R)

3.45 Fictional Familiars.

4.00 NEWS: The Food Programme.

4.40 Four Corners.

5.00 PM.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 Just a Minute.

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.45 Front Row: Mark Lawson

chairs the arts programme.

7.45 Under One Roof: What's Inside a Girl? By Mike Walker, based on the original story by Michele Hanson. Gillian and her friends tackle middle age head-on with varying degrees of damage - as they wrestle with VPL and HRT.

With Paola Dionisotti, Edna O'Brien and Luisa Bradshaw. White Director Marilyn Irwin (1/5).

8.00 NEWS: The Beat. A series following community police officers at work in West Yorkshire. 1: The plight of a teenager found living in a coal bunker. See Pick of the Day.

8.30 Analysis: *Born or Bust?* Is the economy booming, or on the brink of recession? Each month, the Bank of England agonises about interest rates in the face of conflicting information from different sectors of the economy. But does the data still give us an accurate picture? Bridget Rosewell asks if policy is based on an outdated view of the economy.

9.00 NEWS: Life on the Edge. In the second of two programmes about life in extreme environments, Geoff Watts gets lost in the desert and finds out what it takes to survive the searing heat and lack of water.

9.30 Start the Weak: Conversation with Melvyn Bragg and guests.

10.00 The World Tonight.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Setting the World on Fire. Simon Russell Beale reads Angus Wilson's social comedy about postwar aristocracy, theatre, architecture and anarchy. Abridged in ten parts



by Neville Teller. Part 1.

11.00 Radio 4 Appeal: Martin Bell speaks on behalf of Asylum Aid.

11.30 Our Man at Wembly.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Bombay Ice.

12.45 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service.

11.00 Test Match Special.

12.00 - 1.00 Test Match Special.

1.30 Test Match Special.

5.55 Shipping Forecast.

7.30 - 8.00 Today.

RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz LW)

1.00 Newsdesk.

1.45 Britain Today.

2.30 Seven Days.

3.30 on Screen.

4.05 World Business Report.

4.35 Sports Roundup.

4.30 The World Today (0430-0700)/Insight (SW 5875kHz only).

4.45 Off the Shelf: Candide (SW 5875kHz only).

5.30 Outlook (SW 7235kHz only).

5.55 - 6.30 Take Five (SW 7150kHz only).

RADIO 5 LW
(693, 809kHz MW)

6.00 The Breakfast Programme.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Rusco and Co.

4.00 Nationwide.

7.30 Cricket Legends.

David Hayman Allen presents profiles of cricketing greats: 1: Sir Garfield Sobers.

8.00 Interesting, Very Interesting.

Sporting comedy and chat with Garry Richardson, Peter Bradley and their guests. If you have an amusing tale to tell, call 0500 809633.

TALK RADIO

6.30 Kirsty Young with Bill Overton.

9.00 Scott Chisholm.

12.00 Lorina Kelly.

4.00 Peer Deely.

7.00 Anna Raabum.

9.00 James Whale.

1.00 Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night.

5.00 - 6.30 Bill Overton.

LIVING

6.00 Tiny Living (6533340).

9.00 Jerry Springer (940457).

10.45 The Rest and the Restless.

11.30 Brookside (562586).

12.00 Jimmy's (954544).

12.30 Animal Rescue (9359002).

1.00 Rescue 911 (717099).

1.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (562506).

2.45 Housewives (242273).

3.30 Splitting Image (618026).

4.45 Coronation Street (242728).

5.30 EastEnders (572777).

6.00 Nearest and Dearest (615431).

7.30 Nearest and Dearest (615452).

8.00 Emmerdale (463029).

8.30 Coronation Street (242616).

9.00 The Archers (503051).

9.30 Nearest and Dearest (615453).

10.00 Nearest and Dearest (615454).

10.30 Nearest and Dearest (615455).

11.00 Nearest and Dearest (615456).

11.30 Nearest and Dearest (615457).

12.00 Nearest and Dearest (615458).

1.00 Nearest and Dearest (615459).

1.30 Nearest and Dearest (615460).

2.00 Nearest and Dearest (615461).

2.30 Nearest and Dearest (615462).

3.00 Nearest and Dearest (615463).

3.30 Nearest and Dearest (615464).

4.00 Nearest and Dearest (615465).

4.30 Nearest and Dearest (615466).

